





# Prescott announces visa review on radio phone-in

The Deputy Prime Minister shows who is running the shop in Tony Blair's absence, report

Andrew Pierce and Ruth Gledhill

JOHN PRESCOTT made an extraordinary public intervention in Foreign Office affairs yesterday when he ordered an investigation into why five young African priests have been refused visas to visit Britain.

In a move designed to underline the fact that he was "minding the shop" in Tony Blair's absence, the Deputy Prime Minister telephoned the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme after hearing a report on the Foreign Office decision to refuse visas to the Roman Catholic priests who are studying for doctorates at Louvain, the Catholic university in Belgium.

Shortly afterwards, he announced over the air in an interview a review of the decision after hearing that the visits had been standard practice for years to provide holiday relief for hard-pressed British priests.

Mr Prescott was in his ministerial chauffeur-driven car when he heard the 6.45am news item on the programme. Five minutes later he telephoned the BBC to express his concern. He was called back within minutes by Rod Liddle, the programme's deputy editor, to arrange an interview.

Mr Prescott's impulsive decision to pick up the telephone revived memories of Margaret Thatcher's Downing Street call to the studio in December 1988 at 6.30am to express her concern at the Armenian earthquake. As John Humphrys speculated on air that Lady Thatcher may have been told the disaster meant

that Mr Gorbachev's planned trip to Britain might be delayed, he rapidly got his answer. She was on the telephone pointing out that she had not known because the Foreign Office had not told her.

Mr Prescott had a similar effect on Mr Liddle, who was duty junior producer when Lady Thatcher's call came through. The schedule was duly rearranged and 40 minutes later Mr Prescott, who has been irked by reports that Peter Mandelson, who is not a member of the Cabinet had been running the show, announced an investigation.

However, Mr Prescott mindful of the edict about interviews being cleared in advance, spoke to Downing Street before he went on air. A Downing Street spokesman denied that he had sought advice. "John Prescott knows he can co-ordinate government stories himself," he said.

Mr Prescott told the programme that he was concerned by the decision to bar the priests, who were invited by the Shrewsbury diocese as supply priests for a month. The decision not to issue visas has led to one church cancelling weekday services.

Mr Prescott, who is responsible for environment and transport issues, said: "There might be a perfectly good reason but I'm not yet satisfied that there is. I shall ask for the papers this morning to see if there is anything more that could have been done. I'm sure that my colleagues who deal with these matters



Prescott's early morning call to the *Today* programme shows he is running the shop in Tony Blair's absence

give their full attention to but sometimes there can be a slip between cup and lip. If this story is right, there seems to be a certain amount of injustice. Quite frankly, I can't see why that [the refusal of entry] should happen."

Canon Brendan Hoban, rural dean and priest at the Sacred Heart parish in Wall-

sey, the Wirral, said the decision to refuse visas had caused huge problems. "People were rushed in from everywhere to take Mass. Men who were in poor health already had extreme worries and pressures put on them. People panicked, rang round, trying to find priests to fill in for these students who were expected

but never arrived." The Foreign Office said the decision to refuse visas was being urgently reviewed by the British consul, who was contacting the applicants for more information about the purpose of their visit. "If, as a result, he is satisfied that their applications now fall within the immigration rules, visas will

be issued," the Foreign Office said. Fr John Bosco Ekanem, one of the priests denied entry, who had visited Britain twice before, said in a letter to a priest in Shrewsbury diocese that they were no longer allowed to deputise for priests on holiday. "This, in their view, is coming to work without work permits," he wrote.

## Home-school contracts only 'a goodwill gesture'

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers yesterday demanded the right to ban pupils whose parents refuse to sign a contract promising to follow school rules on discipline and homework.

Their call came after an unexpected decision by ministers to repeal legislation that allows schools to

refuse admission if parents ignore the contracts. The Government's move means that while schools will be required to produce contracts for every pupil, heads will be powerless if a parent refuses to sign one.

Under the proposals, set out in a White Paper last month, every school governing body will discuss the details of home-school contracts with parents. The document will set out

policy on pupil behaviour and punctuality, and the standards the school aims to achieve.

Ministers said, however, it should not be used as part of the school admission process, as stated in the previous Government's Education Act 1997. Instead, parents are to be given a "reasonable time" to sign the contract, with no sanctions if they do not. A spokeswoman at the Depart-

ment for Education and Employment described the contracts as "a non-enforceable goodwill gesture". David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "This makes it very difficult for heads when they are faced with parents who are unwilling to sign a contract. If the Government wants to make home-school contracts standard practice, and we believe they

should be, then schools should have the right to refuse admission to parents who are refusing to sign."

Baroness Blackstone, Education Minister, said: "For too long, many parents and teachers have not known what the relationship between home and school should be and what each has a right to expect. Home-school contracts will set clear expectations for parents, schools and pupils."

## 'Riotous' Italian passengers are left at airport by pilot

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN ENTIRE plane-load of passengers bound for Sicily — said by the airline to include 150 excitable and angry Italians — were left at Gatwick yesterday after the captain refused to accept their "riotous" behaviour.

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proved too much for some passengers.

Everyone — including 35 apparently innocent Britons — was ordered off the jet and police arrested one 37-year-old Italian. The jet then took off for Sicily without any passengers.

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Most of the Italians had planned to return to Palermo, where the aircraft was scheduled to land before heading on to Catania. But the delay

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By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

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The platform, which has 51 workers on board, was originally stopped on Saturday when seven Greenpeace activists boarded it. The two remaining protesters, both German, are perched about 40 ft above the sea on a leg of the platform, and have food to last four or five days.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Fears of last-minute university scramble

Worries about a squeeze on the last "free" university places were intensified yesterday when admissions officials said 20,000 fewer places would be available in clearing than last year (David Charter writes).

A far higher proportion of the 295,000 courses have been filled compared to this time last year, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said. By yesterday, 95,155 students had been confirmed on courses for this October, compared to 77,683 at this stage last year. With forecasts of a late rush from up to 90,000 students who would otherwise take a "gap year", the filling of vacancies after Thursday's A-level results is set to be the most hectic on record.

The first signs of that rush were shown by a tripling of last-minute applications. More than 4,000 people have joined the hunt for places in recent days, compared to 1,300 in the same period last year. Education, page 37

#### Trident protesters dig in

Anti-nuclear protesters at Britain's oldest peace camp are preparing for imminent eviction by chaining themselves to concrete lock-ins in case of a raid by Argyl and Bute Council. The campaigners at the 15-year-old Faslane Peace Camp in Helensburgh, opposite the Faslane Naval Base which houses Trident submarines, are determined to oppose the council which has ordered them to quit.

#### Mother found murdered

Police were last night hunting the killer of a woman with a mental age of ten whose body was found dumped in a stream under an old bed. Patricia Grainger, 25, who had a five-year-old son, had been stabbed, strangled and sexually assaulted. She lived at home with her parents on the Parson's Cross estate in Sheffield, close to where her fully clothed body was discovered by two boys out playing.

#### Doncaster suspension

The head of Doncaster council's planning department has become the latest person to be suspended as part of an inquiry. No allegations of fraud or corruption have been made against David Ellis, but he has been accused of weakness in the face of pressures from councillors and of asking junior officials to temper their concerns about the number of green-belt sites being earmarked for housing.

#### Woman raped in Cyprus

A 26-year-old British woman was recovering in a Turkish Cypriot hospital last night after being raped and left on a street in the coastal resort of Kyrenia. Police said a taxi driver had been arrested. The woman, understood to be from Northern Ireland and to work in an hotel, was found semi-conscious on Sunday morning. Doctors at the Akciok Hospital confirmed she had been raped.

#### Camelot sues bookies

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, launched a legal challenge yesterday against three leading bookmakers in an attempt to stop them taking part in a rival numbers game. Camelot claims that the 49s scheme, promoted by William Hill, Coral and Ladbrokes is illegal as it contravenes the 1993 National Lotteries Act which states that there must be only one National Lottery in Britain.

#### Footballer convicted

Carlton Palmer, 31, the former England soccer player, was convicted yesterday for the second time in a week for events arising from a night out clubbing with his Leeds United teammates. He was found guilty of disorderly conduct and fined £450 and ordered to pay £190 costs. Last Tuesday he was convicted by city magistrates of indecently assaulting an 18-year-old girl in a bar.

#### Man survives 80ft fall

A man who fell 80ft down a cliff, and lay badly injured on a ledge in searing heat for almost two days, was rescued by holidaymakers who at first thought his shouts for help were the cries of seagulls. Robert Campbell, 28, from Norwich, told rescuers that he fell off the cliff at Cromer, Norfolk, on Thursday evening. He suffered multiple fractures and was yesterday recovering in hospital.

#### Success for Russia link

Britain's new Moscow-based Customs investigator has scored his first success after a joint operation led to the discovery of 440lb of cocaine and the arrest of seven members of a Russian mafia gang. The senior investigator, whose identity is being kept secret for security reasons, began work this summer. Part of his role is to act as the link between British and Russian operations.

#### Climber snubs chapatis

Alan Hinkes, the mountaineer obliged to postpone his attempt to become the first Briton to climb the world's 14 highest peaks when he slipped on the flour coating a chapati and injured his back, arrived back in Britain yesterday and vowed: "I'll never eat another chapati in my life." The 43-year-old climber from Northallerton, North Yorkshire, then tucked into a meal of fish and chips.

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# It's no joke as Essex decides to get serious

Council says the gags must stop so England's most reviled county can attract investors, reports Michael Horsnell

THE unfortunate image of Essex, and its high-profile, multi-year, of-factless, Philippines-is-undermining-investor-opportunities-in-the-county.

Overseas investors are put off business development in the land of the three seagulls when they hear jokes from competing locations about Essex girls having more shoes than books, according to a county council report.

Immediate action is to be taken by the council after concern in the business community that Essex should defend itself against its reputation as the county that fell off the back of a lorry.

Terry Conder, head of the enterprise and international relations department, said: "Companies do not willingly move their businesses into an area that is perceived to be offering poor quality, and if their perception of Essex is a negative one the county is likely to be passed over as a potential relocation site."

"Since it is also true that a poor image can have a negative impact on self expectation and could easily lead to Essex businesses failing to realise their full potential, our image and the Essex jokes are something that we should all take more seriously."

An unhealthy image featuring "white socks, hairy dice and a black market economy" damages the reputation of the workforce, he added. "The county, which is big enough to

maintain an office in Brussels, is to counter the adverse propaganda with an advertising campaign. Adverts will appear in the national and foreign press to promote a Essex as a county in which to "live, work and do business".

Meanwhile posters will go up at Stansted airport with photographs of a picturesque country road and a hi-tech office. The skills of staff at the Ford plant at Dagenham — although now in east London, it remains the spiritual heart



of Essex mythology — will be presented as a high quality workforce.

Mr Conder's report in the economic development magazine *Enterprising Essex*, illustrated by a pair of white stiletto shoes, follows a business seminar hosted by the county's chief executive Stewart Ashurst.

Local commercial interests spoke of a common perception of Essex as a place in which to live and work, and the need to challenge this if its

image were not to have an impact on business.

Mr Conder added: "It is completely unfair. We have two excellent universities, six other colleges and growing success in high quality industrial and commercial activities. This is the image we need to present."

Essex has long been regarded by its devotees as a county of two halves: the concrete, industrial south-east exemplified by Basildon Man and the archetypal M.P. for Billericay, Teresa Gorman; and the rest, picturesque countryside.

Dick Turpin, the highwayman, did not help the county's reputation, but since his time the county's history has included A.A. Milne; Augustus John; Edith Cavell; Samuel Pepys as M.P. for Harwich; Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer; Captain Lawrence Oates of Scott's Antarctic expedition, and the surgeon Joseph Lister.

Among the county's proudest boasts are Colchester, the oldest recorded town in Britain, Chelmsford from where Marconi made the first radio broadcast, the world's oldest wooden church (1063AD) at Greensted, and Southend, which boasts the world's longest pier.

But Terry Marsh, former IBF world light-welterweight boxing champion, from Basildon, said: "This revelation about the need for a new Essex Man image will only make people laugh at us."



A baby's toy and clothing on the pavement with the pushchair hood after the crash

# Runaway car kills mother, injures baby

By ADRIAN LEE AND LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN died and her baby son was critically injured yesterday when they were hit by a car that was believed to have gone out of control after the 80-year-old driver collapsed and died at the wheel.

Police said Jill Wilson, 74, was walking next to a main road in Fleet, Hampshire, when she was struck by the bonnet of the car. Her four-month-old son, Anthony, was thrown out of his pushchair as it was dragged 150 yards down the road.

His two-year-old sister, Victoria, who was walking alongside the pushchair, escaped unhurt. She was discovered, in tears, calling for her mother.

Witnesses said the Triumph Dolomite car, driven by Winifred Fletcher, left a straight stretch of Reading Road South, hit the pushchair, then returned to the road where it hit a van.

George Evans, who lives near by, said he heard a loud bang and went to see what happened. "There was a youngish woman lying in the road, a van by the postbox and a car near by too. I remember seeing a pram as well."

A woman who ran from her home after hearing a screech of brakes said: "The baby who had been in a buggy was very seriously injured and the driver was also dead."

Barbara Lawson, 63, said: "All I could hear was the sound

of a young child screaming and screaming and I just couldn't bear to look."

Mrs Wilson's husband, Ian, said he could not believe what had happened: "I am rushing to be by my son's bedside. I have been told by police that he is very, very poorly. When the accident happened I was at work and I believe my wife and children were making their way back home from town."

The family home is a few hundred yards from the crash site. Joan Walthers, 74, a passenger in the car, was slightly hurt and the van driver was treated for shock.

Adrian Maas, of Surrey Ambulance Service, said: "The mother and the pushchair had both been carried some distance down the road. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the elderly lady and the mother died at the scene."

The baby was initially taken to Frimley Park Hospital, at Camberley, Surrey, but later transferred to a head injuries unit at King's College Hospital, London. He was said last night to have multiple injuries.

Mrs Wilson was a driving instructor who ran her own business from her home, and was off work after the birth of Anthony. A neighbour, Gareth Palmer, said: "She was a brilliant person who always had a joke, or a smile on her face."

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# Body of missing girl, 13, is found

By STEWART TENDLER

THE body of a missing 13-year-old girl has been found with head injuries in scrubland behind a Birmingham public house, police said yesterday. Jessica Downes, from Oldbury, went missing last Friday after leaving home to go to swimming baths.

Detective Superintendent David Unwin, who is in charge of the inquiry, said that Jessica's death was being treated as suspicious and could have been murder. He said that her body was fully clothed and there were no signs of a sexual assault. A blue Reebok rucksack she was carrying when she left home was missing.

Mr Unwin said that her body was found on Sunday night while a fight between youths at another public house opposite the Royal Oak was taking place. Several people were arrested and during the brawl a man in the area told officers that he had found a body.

Although he stayed to help police he left without giving his name and yesterday police asked him to contact them. Police are keeping an open mind about whether the discovery of the body and the disturbance are connected.



Sarah Cook with her "husband", Musa Komeagac

# Child 'bride' says marriage is over

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

SARAH COOK, the Essex schoolgirl who went off to marry the 18-year-old Turkish waiter she had met on holiday, announced the relationship was over in a public quarrel with her "husband" broadcast live on Turkish television.

Speaking by telephone from her home in Braintree, Sarah accused Musa Komeagac of failing to send money to support their ten-month-old son Mohammed and of being unfaithful to her. Komeagac, who married Sarah in Turkey according to a legally invalid religious ceremony when she was 13, protested his faithfulness. "I love you, baby," he repeated, in the Istanbul television studio.

Sarah, who had converted to Islam at his family's request, refused to be mollified.

"What sort of Muslim are you?" she asked him.

In Mr Komeagac's hometown of Kahramanmaraş, Sarah had been adopted as "the nation's bride" and held up as an example for her willingness to cover her head in Islamic fashion and lead a simple life in the home of her in-laws. When she was returned to Britain in February 1996, after the High Court made her a ward of court, much of the Islamic press in Turkey claimed that the authorities in Britain were motivated not by concern for Sarah's welfare but by anger that the girl had rejected her Western upbringing.

Mr Komeagac still faces charges in Turkey of statutory rape in a series of court hearings that have dragged on since February 1996.

# Fans flock to Graceland for candle-lit Elvis vigil

By PETER FOSTER, MARK HENDERSON AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THOUSANDS of Elvis fans and impersonators are making "pilgrimage" to Graceland to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the singer's death this Saturday.

Four British couples are to marry in an Elvis-style "Hawaiian Blue" ceremony after the festivities in Memphis. They will join more than 100,000 fans at Graceland, the Presley mansion in Tennessee where "the king" is buried. He was 42 when he died. A candle-light vigil will be held outside the estate's gates on Friday night.

The Official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Great Britain has hired 20 luxury coaches and booked five hotels for the occasion. The entourage of Elvis aficionados who have paid £1,600 for the trip



will then travel to Los Angeles and Hawaii. Passengers at Gatwick can expect to see scores of Elvis impersonators in the departure lounges this week as the "craze" to Graceland gathers pace. Northwest

Airlines, which flies direct to Memphis, has sold more than 5,000 seats on special flights. For £590, passengers can expect a lively sing-song and Elvis movies.

British Elvis fans left behind will not be lonesome on Saturday and Sunday. Fan clubs are holding Elvis parties across the country. The biggest in London at the Forum in Kenilworth Town and the Equinox in Leicester Square.

Weeks before he died, a drugged Elvis rang President Carter at the White House and asked him to help a friend he believed was in trouble. The New Yorker has reported. The magazine said Mr Carter tried to calm Elvis's fears that he was being "shadowed" and that his friend was being framed.

SPRAY AUGUST 12 1997

IN BRIEF

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protesters dig in

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DELL



# Irish pilgrims pray opportunity knocks for Dana

Audrey Magee on an unusual presidential campaign

AN ANNUAL pilgrimage of prayer turned into a political rally yesterday when hundreds of Roman Catholics asked God to make Dana, a former winner of the Eurovision Song Contest, the next President of Ireland.

Pilgrims from both sides of the Irish border travelled to the Knock shrine in Co Mayo as part of a national campaign of prayer to have Dana — real name Rosemary Brown — succeed Mary Robinson. Mrs Robinson stands down on September 12 to become the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.

Many came from Belfast. As UK citizens they are not entitled to vote in the Irish election, but they see Dana as a candidate who would restore Christian values in the republic.

They came with leaflets calling on people to pray for



Dana: won support for her Christian values

Dana and listened to recordings of her singing the rosary as they travelled by bus. Colm Trimble, from Whiteabbey in Belfast, said Dana encapsulated all that was good about Christianity. "She is a very

peaceful and calm woman and is internationally renowned for that — not just for singing. When it comes to being President of Ireland she will be AI."

Mr Trimble and other Dana supporters prayed for her success during a mass in Knock basilica celebrated by Kevin Scallion, brother-in-law of the singer. Traces of Dana can be found everywhere in Knock: tapes of her music are on sale in the trinket shops and a Golden Rose sits behind glass to commemorate the occasion when she sang for Pope John Paul during his visit to Knock in 1979.

However, organisers were reticent about the use by the political lobbyists of the shrine and basilica. One priest described their presence as "overt politics that has nothing to do with prayers and pilgrims in Knock".

But the pilgrims were undeterred, determined to push as hard as they could to lobby 20 members of the Irish Parliament, or four local authorities, to vote for Dana — the backing she needs to stand. However, in a recent telephone poll in the Republic, only 4 per cent of people backed her candidature.



Hundreds of pilgrims from both sides of the border prayed at a mass held in Knock for Dana to become the next president of Ireland

Joe Brennan, an independent Galway councillor lobbying on Dana's behalf, virtually admitted defeat yesterday. He will table a motion that Galway County Council nominates Dana, but concedes he is likely to be defeated as party members vote with the whip.

The main political parties in Ireland want John Hume, the SDLP leader, to become president or will put forward their own candidates. Albert Reynolds, the former Fianna Fail leader, wrote to party members asking them to back him. Many Irish commentators

have scoffed at the idea that the singer, who now lives in the bible belt of Alabama with her husband and four children, could become the next Irish President.

Professor Anthony Clare, psychiatrist and director of St Patrick's hospital in Dublin, said her attempted nomination was a last attempt by the Irish Catholic Right to secure a strong foothold in Irish politics. "Most people are not treating her seriously. She is the Jimmy Goldsmith of the election and will probably fare as well," he said.

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## Britain will fund Sinn Fein in talks

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH taxpayers will subsidise Sinn Fein to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds as it argues for a united Ireland in full-scale peace negotiations opening next month.

The IRA's political wing is assembling a formidable team of more than 40 people for the talks, which it sees as the first real engagement between the republican movement and the British Government since Ireland's partition in 1921. A substantial portion of Sinn Fein's costs during the eight months of talks will be defrayed by the British and Irish governments, as will those of all the other participating parties.

In addition to its negotiators, the IRA's political wing is lining up legal advisers, administrators, researchers, specialists, a press and publicity unit and other support staff.

"We are treating the talks process with the greatest seriousness," said Richard McAuley, the Sinn Fein spokesman. The party was considering "what we need to put in place to make maximum use and get maximum benefit from these negotiations. Our intention is to be as well prepared as we can be."

Each delegate or negotiator will receive a £100 daily allowance for a minimum of four hours' work. Sinn Fein's 17 elected delegates would pass this money straight on to the party, Mr McAuley said.

In addition, each political party can claim a research grant of up to £6,000 per quarter, a support grant of £300 for each day of actual negotiations, and travel and subsistence allowances for its elected delegates and back-up staff. An official at the Northern Ireland Office remarked: "I think everyone would agree

that the benefits to Northern Ireland of a settlement agreed at the talks table will far outweigh the costs of hosting them."

Sinn Fein, whose coffers have been severely depleted by three elections in four months, is next month sending three senior officials to America, where they will raise funds to supplement this public money. After two days of political meetings in Washington, the MEPs Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and Martin McGuinness, its chief negotiator, and Caoimhghin O Caolain, a member of the Dail, will attend fundraising events in New York before they split up and visit the Irish-American communities of Chicago, Boston and San Francisco.

The total price of peace for the British taxpayer is likely to be millions of pounds; six months of preliminary talks last year, which did not involve Sinn Fein, as the IRA had not renewed its ceasefire, cost well over £1 million.

The Army relaxed another security precaution yesterday, two weeks into the latest IRA truce, sending patrols out onto the streets of West Belfast in regimental berets instead of helmets. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, welcomed the gesture as "a sign of increasing confidence" and part of a "steady return to normality which will continue, providing the level of threat and events on the ground allow it."

Security sources say the only discernible threat to British troops at present comes from a republican splinter group called the Continuity Army Council.

Letters, page 11



With security relaxed as a result of the IRA truce, soldiers in Belfast were yesterday in regimental berets

Great Minds Think Viglen



# Tabloids in deep water: a three-step guide to throwing ethics overboard

THE Press Complaints Commission was urged to review its code of practice yesterday after a tabloid newspaper fooled millions of readers with a fake photograph of Diana, Princess of Wales, on holiday with Dodi Fayed.

The front-page photograph, trumpeted in *The Mirror* as "Exclusive: the picture they all wanted", was electronically enhanced to make it look as if the couple were about to kiss.

*Mirror* sources insisted the offending image had been changed by only one millimetre, but in the newspaper's original picture, Mr Fayed's head faced away from the Princess. In the pictures on the right, *The Times* demonstrates how easy image manipulation has become with the use of computers.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, said the PCC code of practice should be updated to give editors specific guidance about the use of photographs. He said: "This is an issue which needs to be addressed. It is the duty of a newspaper to let its readers know when a photograph has been doctored."

"The code of practice was compiled in the days when the alteration or amendment of photographs was rare. Now it is possible to change a photo in any way you like. It would be very wise if the PCC considered amending its code."

Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*, described *The Mirror*'s actions as a "cynical deception" and called for the PCC code to be rewritten immediately. Mr Higgins added: "The code should be amended so that any newspaper that doctors a picture should make it clear that they have done so. The old adage we have lived and died by is that the camera never lies. But it seems newspapers do."

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, used an original, undoctored version of a photograph of the couple on Thursday last week. Two days later, after losing out in a £250,000 bidding war to his Sunday stablemate, he apparently decided to alter it for Saturday's edition.

Mr Morgan's decision appears to have been tacitly approved by David Montgomery, *Mirror* Group's chief executive, who objected to a suggested headline. "The

In the wake of fake photographs of the Princess of Wales, Carol Midgley on calls for a tighter code of conduct

Kiss" and told the editor to change it to "Hot Lips".

A *Mirror* Group spokesman criticised *The Guardian* newspaper, which devoted an entire page to the picture tampering. The spokesman added: "It is ironic that *The Guardian* should be raising an issue about photo tampering when it managed to remove an entire human being from a recent photograph of Gordon Brown outside Number 11 on Budget day."

The *Mirror* picture had been supplied by the Rex photographic agency which supplies pictures to newspapers. It was taken by a French photographer during the Princess's holiday with Mohamed Al Fayed weeks earlier. Rex confirmed the original was one of a number it sent to *The Mirror* and other papers on Wednesday last week, when news first broke of the Princess's friendship with Mr Al Fayed's son.

One expert who saw the original picture said yesterday: "If you reverse the head — flip it — which you can

easily do, it is the same picture."

A spokesman for the PCC said no complaints had been made about the photographs and it could make no comment on the matter. For the commission to investigate one of the principal people involved in the picture — the Princess or Mr Fayed — would have to make a formal complaint.

On Sunday, the Government ruled out the introduction of a privacy law. Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, conceded the photographs were "intrusive and unwelcome" but added: "The problem of having an all-encompassing privacy law being introduced by Parliament is the protection it gives to those who don't merit protection."

"I would hate to see the day when the British press are prevented from exposing that wrongdoing because often times it is only the press who can do that job."

The scramble for exclusive rights to the holiday pictures also prompted the *News of the World* to try a similar trick. Its front page showed the Princess apparently kissing Mr Fayed. Readers were told the image had been "created" only when they turned to page 3.

The *Sunday Mirror*, which carried the first genuine exclusive pictures of the couple kissing, claimed yesterday that it had raised its circulation by 300,000, or 13 per cent, on Sunday. The paper increased its price by 5p and printed 2.8 million copies, 20 per cent more than usual.

Additional reporting by Stephen Farrell



STEP ONE: original photograph by a Big Pictures photographer of the Princess, a crew member, and Dodi Fayed



STEP TWO: *The Times* gets to work, removing the crew member from the shot and restoring the background



STEP THREE: the couple are moved as if about to kiss

## Changing photographs is child's play

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE camera has always lied and the computer is a willing accomplice.

*Time* was forced to apologise in June 1994 after it published a darkened police mugshot of O.J. Simpson on its front cover shortly after the death of his wife. The magazine used a computer to make the former American football player seem blacker and with more subtle than in the identical picture used by its rival *Newsweek*.

Black groups said that the picture played on white fears of stereotypes of violent African-Americans. *Time* defended it as "a work of art"

intended to convey a sombre impression but later apologised, saying "no racial implication was intended".

Modern computer technology has made manipulation child's play for anyone with a home computer and £500 Adobe Photoshop software, used legitimately by photographers to trim pictures, remove blemishes and balance colours.

Pictures are stored digitally on a computer disk and can be electronically airbrushed with a sweep of the computer mouse. However, long before Photoshop, trickery was carried out for financial and political gain — or just plain mischief.

In 1917, two schoolgirls fooled Arthur Conan Doyle and photo-



The Cottingley fairies picture that fooled experts worldwide

graphic experts worldwide with the Cottingley fairies, apparently playing in a Yorkshire dell. Elsie Wright and her cousin Frances Griffiths drew the fairies in sepia on card, pinned them to toadstools and took

the pictures with a cheap box camera, admitting the hoax only decades later.

Soviet leaders were early masters of the art. A newsreel still of Lenin addressing the Red Army in May 1920 was doctored to remove Stalin's rival Trotsky from the wooden platform, and Stalin's propaganda experts faked another picture to show him sitting alongside his apparent friend and mentor Lenin.

In December 1994 London's *Evening Standard* newspaper removed a beer bottle from a picture of John Prescott and his wife Pauline, leaving just wine glasses on a table in front of them above a caption "champagne socialists".

## Ministers study proposal to open clubs on Sunday

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

NIGHTCLUBS would be able to open on Sundays under proposals being studied by Home Office ministers. The entertainment industry has put forward a plan to end the 1780 Sunday Observance Act that prevents clubs selling tickets for dancing on the sabbath.

But the proposal will be resisted by groups opposed to eroding the special status of Sunday. It is likely they will lobby in Parliament for any further changes to be introduced by ministerial order — as has occurred under previous changes to licensing laws.

Many clubs get round the ban by operating as a restaurant, giving free buffet meals to guests and claiming that they have paid for them.

A Home Office spokesman said last night: "The industry has asked us to look again at Sunday dancing and we are looking at it."

An attempt last year to reform the Act's dancing provisions failed because the House of Lords believes any change should be introduced

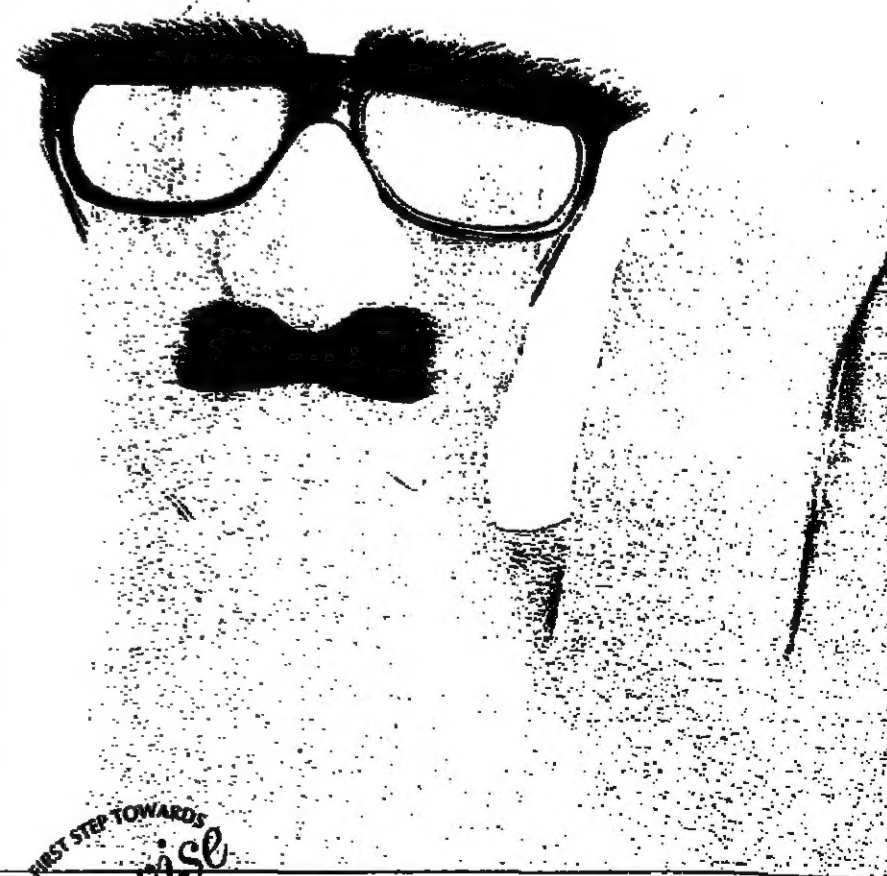
by primary legislation, involving full debate in both Houses of Parliament.

Last night Michael Schluter, director of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, said that stringent safeguards would be needed to ensure that clubbers did not wreck other people's Sundays. He said: "If people want to dance on a Sunday, that's fine, but they should not be allowed to do that at the expense of people who want to keep their Sunday a special day for peace and quiet and their families."

John Roberts, general secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, voiced strong opposition to any change. He warned: "Opening nightclubs on Sundays would mean more noise, drinking, accidents and fighting, all of which are already endemic to the sort of society which we are creating."

Peter Stringfellow, owner of Stringfellow's nightclub in central London, said he doubted that people would go "crazy" for Sunday dancing in London, although it might be different outside the capital.

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# Drug companies' loss leaders cost the NHS millions

DRUG companies are milking the National Health Service of hundreds of millions of pounds a year by exploiting a severe shortage of hospital funds.

They sell expensive brand-name products at huge discounts to hospitals, knowing that patients insist on being prescribed the same drugs by their GPs when they go home. The deal can save hospitals hundreds of thousands of pounds on their drugs bill.

The local chemist, who cannot get discounts anything like as large as those given to hospitals, has to pay much more for the same drug. Discounts vary from place to place. Drugs dispensed in Kensington and Chelsea chemists cost an average of £10.23; those in Sheffield cost £6.57. The NHS pays the difference.

Much cheaper equivalent drugs are usually available, but the chemist cannot substitute them if the doctor has named the expensive brand on the prescription. Buying just 25 of the brand-name drugs

Brand names are sold cheaply to hospitals. The price is paid when the patient goes home, writes Ian Murray

instead of their cheap equivalents cost the NHS over £166 million last year. The national drug bill rose 6.2 per cent in real terms last year to £4 billion, with 485 million prescriptions dispensed.

Laurance Buckman, a GP in Finchley, north London, said that it was common practice for big companies to provide hospitals with drugs at huge discounts. A member of the British Medical Association's negotiating team, he is an expert on general practice audit.

"When you work in hospital you are barely aware of the price of drugs so you don't mind which you prescribe," he said. "It is only when you work in the community that you realise how extremely expensive the branded ones can be."

Dr Buckman said that, in 62

per cent of his prescriptions, he named the cheaper equivalent drugs, but he knew that whenever patients came out of hospital he would probably have to put them on the drug prescribed for them there.

"Once you are in practice you are very aware of the cost of drugs and you can get into trouble if you over-prescribe. When a patient comes and tells you the drug he was given by the consultant is doing him good it is almost impossible to get him to agree to a change. It is no point telling him that the cheaper one is just as good because he thinks he is being fobbed off."

He said that major drug companies gave huge discounts to hospitals to make sure their brand names became well-known before the

patients on the drugs expired and to beat off competition. "It is not a scandal. These companies are responsible for most of the research into new drugs and they are major exporters which means that they contribute to the economy. They are not a charity but a business and their shareholders expect them to make a profit."

Drug companies can retain a monopoly on drugs they patent for 15 years, during which time they must try to recoup the cost of the research and development on the drug. After that, any firm capable of producing the drug can obtain a licence to do so and undercut the brand-name product.

These generic producers are ready to flood the market with their version of the brand-name product on the day the patent expires. When Glaxo Wellcome's ulcer cure Zantac lost its patent protection recently, competition among generic producers to win a share of its market drove down the price of its equivalent, ranitidine, by 25 per cent. Zantac, however, costing £27.99 for 60 tablets, retains a dominant share of the market.

Charitable donation is another way by which the big producers help to keep their name at the forefront of doctors' minds, especially in hospitals. Glaxo Wellcome has donated £1.75 million towards the construction of a pharmacy unit at King's College Hospital in London. Since 1989 it has given £13 million to health-related projects.

No strings are attached to such gifts. "We are committed to being a good corporate citizen, helping to do things in the field where we work," a spokesman said.

The system of discounts for the 4,000 doctors in rural areas who are allowed to dispense is open to abuse and the Government has ordered an inquiry into the way it works. The doctors provide a much-needed service for patients who would find difficulty going to a chemist shop for prescriptions. Most of them are completely honest but they are exposed to temptation.

Drugs companies are assumed to give them a 9.57 per cent discount for their supplies, but in reality discounts for them are often as high as 30 per cent. It is quite easy for them to pocket the difference. The NHS Executive found evidence that some doctors had prescribed cheap generic equivalent drugs but charged the NHS for the expensive branded names.

## US firm wants loan equipment sent back

ONE of America's biggest drugs companies has asked NHS hospitals in Wales to send back vital equipment from operating theatres after losing a major contract to supply anaesthetic.

Abbott Laboratories, of Chicago, which lost deals worth £1.2 million to supply gases used to keep patients unconscious during surgery, has requested the return of essential machines known as vaporisers.

Hospitals have to decide whether to use new, cheaper suppliers for the gas but spend extra money on equipment. Abbott says that the vaporisers were on loan, but will lend hospitals but them secondhand or rent them instead of sending them back.

Vlain Fenton-May, who chairs the NHS purchasing committee which dropped Abbott as a supplier, said the offer should be resisted.

Since the mid-1980s, Abbott has supplied Welsh hospitals with two gases used in anaesthesia: isoflurane and the less powerful enflurane. Both require specially calibrated vaporisers to turn the liquid into gas and mix it with air

Trusts face bill to replace operating theatre machines, reports Dominic Kennedy

and oxygen to be inhaled.

Two years ago, Abbott lost the contract in Wales to supply isoflurane, the more frequently used of the gases, to Norton Healthcare, a cheaper competitor, but kept the enflurane deal. When the latest two-year contracts, which took effect last month, were being negotiated, the All-Wales Drug Contracting Committee was warned by Abbott that it owned many vaporisers.

"Abbott claims most of the trusts in Wales have some," said Mr Fenton-May, who chairs the committee. "Ten to 15 years ago these were left in hospitals almost as an inducement to use the product."

"It was effectively stuff that was left by drug reps who said 'You need these to try our

product'. It was just dropped out of boots of cars."

Abbott says it owns between three and 20 vaporisers per trust in Wales. New machines can cost as much as £2,500. However, the decision to choose cheaper suppliers has saved about £300,000 a year, which Mr Fenton-May believes is enough to replace any machines given by the Chicago company.

Trusts have the power to make their own deals to stay with Abbott but he doubts they will. "The economics of it are that they would be foolish to do so," he said.

The Pembrokeshire NHS Trust, which runs the 368-bed Withybush General Hospital in Haverfordwest, has about 30 vaporisers but is uncertain how many belong to Abbott. It is continuing to use Abbott and may negotiate to buy the machines secondhand, although it is under pressure to accept the new contract.

Ken Cottam, a director of Abbott, said: "It is just not economically viable to leave vaporisers in place when no business is forthcoming. It is a normal commercial arrangement."



Neil Fingleton, 7ft 4½in and still growing, has a fondness for high-energy foods

## When gigantism can cause big problems

NEIL FINGLETON is not worried about the end of the university grants system. The 16-year-old Middlesbrough schoolboy has already won a scholarship to study at an American university for three years.

Whereas other adolescents attribute their scholarships to long hours spent studying, he attributes his to a huge appetite, with a fondness for milk, turkey and fruit.

Neil is 7ft 4½in and still growing, qualities which proved irresistible to a university governing body concerned about the future of its basketball team. Most parents would be dismayed by the cost of buying size 14 shoes, the high price of outdoor clothes, the need to provide special beds and the amount of food required to fuel an 18st teenager who might even make 8ft.

Very tall people themselves find cars and bicycles uncomfortable and are socially embarrassed when they tower over their contemporaries. Unusually tall children are often permanently damaged by the social and emotional problems of their height but doctors are also concerned for their physical health.

Photographs of Neil Fingleton show him to be reasonably proportioned, and since he has a 6ft 8in brother and 6ft 2in sister his height may be no more than a benign family characteristic, displayed to the full in Neil's case because of his enormous appetite for nourishing, high-energy food.

The familial tendency to great height, accompanied by long, spindly limbs, without evidence of any disease, runs



Dr Thomas Stuttard

in some families, more often black than white. However, there are also several diseases in which gigantism is one of the characteristics.

The best known cause of gigantism and acromegaly is the condition in which there is an excessive production of growth hormone from a benign tumour of the pituitary. Fortunately, Neil's strong family history of great height would seem to exclude this.

**‘The familial tendency to great height, without signs of disease, runs in some families’**

as this pituitary abnormality is not familial. In only 1 per cent of cases of gigantism and acromegaly is the excessive production of growth hormone apparent before puberty. Usually it becomes obvious in a patient only between 30 and 50.

When excessive hormone is produced in children not only do they grow to a great height but usually also have

one or more of the features of acromegaly, whether it is the heavy, protruberant jaw, enlarged internal organs, changes in the skin or even signs of the heart disease and hypertension which will trouble them in later life. Most of the famous Victorian giants suffered from the production of excessive growth hormone and most failed to live beyond middle age.

One of the more common causes of excess height, also associated with long, gauging arms, huge hands and long, spindly fingers, is Marfan's syndrome. As this is a genetic disorder it is usually found that other members of a family are also affected.

Usually when a family is afflicted with Marfan's syndrome, only a few of the signs are present in any one patient. This makes diagnosis difficult but is unfortunate as many of the features of the disease endanger health and life.

Most of the manifestations of Marfan's are the result of elasticity in connective tissue. With the result that the aorta is weakened and the support for the lenses of the eyes is so feeble that sight is endangered. The double-jointedness from which patients with Marfan's suffer also leads to early arthritis.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Anons in court over jet protest

Four men called Mr Anon went on trial accused over a protest against aircraft exports to Indonesia. The men, who refused to give personal details to police and the court, are believed to be from East Timor, which Indonesia claims as its territory. They denied trespassing at a site belonging to British Aerospace, which sells Hawk jets to the Indonesian Government. Four Britons, including Father Arthur Fitzgerald, 50, a priest from Liverpool, also denied the charge at Lytham Magistrates' Court, Lancashire.

## Birds on a wire

Conservationists have demanded a cut in the number of deer fences ringing Highlands pine forests in an attempt to reduce the death rates of grouse and the rare capercaillie. A study published yesterday showed that large numbers of the birds die after flying into the 6ft-high fences.

## Priest sex case

A Roman Catholic priest was remanded on bail yesterday on condition that he surrender his passport after appearing before Cardiff Crown Court accused of 22 offences against five girls and two boys. Father John Lloyd, 56, of St Joseph's Church, Penarth, denies four rapes and 18 indecent assaults.

## Propeller injury

A pilot using his car to jump start a light aircraft was badly injured by the plane's propeller. He was hit as he was about to shut his car bonnet. A report found there was no evidence the plane had moved. He had planned to fly from Parham, West Sussex, to Lydd, in Kent, on April 15.

## Child loses eye

A two-year-old boy has lost his right eye after he was shot at close range by an air weapon at a house in Bootle, Liverpool. He is to have further surgery as doctors fear the pellet may be in his head. Two teenagers aged 13 and 18 were arrested and released on police bail in connection with the incident.

## Degree of spice

Students will be able to take a course in Spice Girls studies from September. Hantoni Community College in Devon is offering an eight-week course — a "post-feminist look at cultural studies" — that will examine "girl power", the success of the group and its impact on young fans.

## Boxing clever

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is encouraging a couple, who have bought the Thomas à Becket pub in the Old Kent Road to apply for lottery funding to turn the upstairs gym into a boxing museum. The south London gym closed earlier this year.

## Public proposal

Army piper James Thomson chose the puffed ranks of the military pipes and drums, and an audience of 8,500, to witness his proposal. Charlotte Valley, 19, was picked out by spotlights at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo as Piper Thomson, 27, went down on one knee. She accepted.

## Sounds deadly

A blub found by Adrian Massey in the mouthpiece of the didgeridoo he was about to play turned out to be a deadly Black Widow spider. Mr Massey, 21, of Headington, Oxfordshire, who bought the instrument in Australia, said: "I felt sick at how lucky I was not to have been bitten."

### CORRECTION

The desk at which Edward VIII signed his abdication (photograph, August 11) is part of a collection of Windsor memorabilia on display at Sotheby's in London this week. It will be auctioned in New York next month.



Sea bass began to revisit the Thames in the 1970s

## Sea bass return to Thames in force

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

MILLIONS of tiny sea bass were detected under London Bridge yesterday, underlining the steady improvement in the cleanliness of the Thames.

The number of the fish spotted swimming upstream was the biggest since the species began returning, along with salmon, in the 1970s, the Environment Agency said. Sea bass and scores of other fish were once common in the Thames, but were killed off by pollution.

A spokesman for the agency said the sea bass were spawned in the Channel and

swam upstream to put on weight. The fry will swim probably as far as Teddington in west London and stay in the river until the autumn, when they will be about 5cm to 7cm long. They will then swim back to the Thames Estuary and out to sea.

The agency said yesterday that other species were returning in healthy numbers to the Thames Estuary, and in some cases further upstream. These include Dover sole, flounder, lamprey, stickleback, eels, conger eels, Channel catfish and sea horses.

## Only Gaelic speakers need apply

By Audrey Magee

HOUSES go on sale in Dublin next month exclusively for Gaelic speakers. It is the first time that Gaelic language enthusiasts in the Irish Republic have tried to create a gaeiltacht, or Irish speaking area, in an urban setting.

Twenty houses in a new development in west Dublin have been earmarked for Irish speakers and their families. Everything, from borrowing sugar to educating the children, will be done in Gaelic while the other residents of the 365 houses on the Lucan estate carry on in English.

The scheme has produced a mixed reaction in Ireland. Some commentators have lauded it as the perfect way to save the Irish language, currently spoken on a regular basis by 11 per cent of the 3.6 million living in Ireland. Others have described it as an attempt at "ghettoisation" and "artificial insinuation of an urban gaeiltacht".

Polab Mha Life, the scheme's organisers, reject criticisms that they are creating a Gaelic ghetto or alienating English speakers. Ananraí O Braonáin, co-chairman of Polab, said Irish speakers persistently tried to accommodate English speakers.

"When we want to talk to each other we are forced to meet in pubs or Irish clubs or

switch to English if one in a group does not understand. Now we have a chance with this estate to build a situation where people use the language as part of everyday life. It's not a ghetto, at least not in a negative sense."

There has been a resurgence of interest in the Irish language in recent years and Hamilton Osborne King, the estate agents, say they have received dozens of calls from Gaelic speakers interested in the Dublin houses, which will be priced from £85,000 when they go on sale. A spokeswoman said: "We are surprised at the reaction. We weren't sure if the idea would be popular but it seems it is."

## PREPARE TO BE SHOCKED.

A minute after this photo was taken, the dog was beaten, soaked with water and electrocuted.

Her crime? To be born in Asia where dealing with the world's biggest stray dog problem is a cruel task.

Sometimes, the power supply is not strong enough to kill dogs like this. So some are buried alive.

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# When Old Boys lost their grip on soccer

Brian Glanville looks at the rise of professionalism as league and cup captured the public's imagination

PROFESSIONAL football in England was born and rearing fast by Victoria's diamond jubilee year, 1897. It was an especially fine year for Aston Villa, the Birmingham club who joined on the double of League Championship and FA Cup, the first club to do so since Preston North End, the so-called "Invincibles", in 1889.

That was the year after the foundation of the Football League, which then consisted of one division. It was inspired by an Aston Villa director, the Scotsman William McGregor, who took as his model the American baseball championship, awarding two points for a win and one for a draw. The formation of the league solved a problem for the professionalised clubs of the province: a lack of regular fixtures.

The FA Cup was established in 1872 and quickly became immensely popular. But by itself it hardly offered sufficient games to the professional clubs, not least if they were knocked out early on.

Friendly games had to fill the breach, but they did so inadequately. As the classic Association Football and The Men Who Made It, by Alfred Gibson and William Pickford (1906), put it: "It was evident that this class of game, with its uncertainties and its lack of excitement, was not a sufficiently strong pabulum for the multitude."

Villa's origins were fairly typical. The club was founded in 1874 by a group of young men connected with the Aston Villa Wesleyan Chapel and played first on a field at Wellington Road, Perry Bar. The Scot George Ramsay — as the



others watched him practise, "his dribbling held them spellbound" — was made captain and, in his small, round polo cap, soon became a pivotal figure.

Other celebrated Scots, such as the Hunter brothers, followed. Scots, indeed, were the core of the early professional game, many coming south to "find money in their boots".

Five years after the formation of Villa, West Bromwich, Strollers, later known as Albion, were established by a group of local youngsters, initially playing on waste ground. Not until 1881 did Preston North End turn from rugby to football, losing their first match to neighbours Blackburn Rovers 16-0. Within a few years, however, Major Sudell, their remarkable manager and the first of his kind,



Soccer in Cambridge, 1887, a year before the league was founded

defied the FA rules outlawing professionalism to build a formidable team.

Blackburn Rovers, the first provincial team to challenge the hegemony of the mighty Old Boys sides, such as the Old Etonians, in the FA Cup, were founded in 1874 by a celebrated referee, John Lewis.

In 1897, nearly 66,000 people packed the Crystal Palace to see Villa beat Everton 3-2 in a thrilling final of high quality. The cup itself was a new one. Two years earlier, after Villa had beaten neighbours West Bromwich in the first Crystal Palace final, the original was stolen from a shop window.

So Villa, having run away with the championship by an 11-point margin, added the cup to their laurels. All five goals came within 25 minutes. Villa, 2-1 down, equal-

ised, then won with a 43rd minute goal by John Cowan, one of two brothers. However, John Bell, Everton's inside right and scorer of their first goal, was the star of a notable occasion.

By then, the game had come a long way from its early development and initial domination by the great public schools and their alumni. Football of a kind had been played in England since the Middle Ages, often in violent ways, but after Dr Thomas Arnold had introduced muscular Christianity to Rugby School it became, so to speak, domesticated.

The problem was that each school tended to have its own code, sometimes involving the hands, sometimes not, and with very different types of goal. The breakthrough was made in 1862 by J.C. Thring of Uppingham School, who, while at Cambridge University, produced a ten-rule treatise called *The Simplex Game*. Hands could be used only to stop the ball. Tripping and heel kicking were forbidden. But the following year, when the Football Association was formed at the Freemasons' Arms in Great Queen Street, London, the Blackheath club withdrew in protest at the rule forbidding hacking.

The development in Scotland of the passing game, as opposed to the individual, dribbling style favoured by public school men, revolutionised play. After initial opposition by the FA, professionalism was made legal in 1885. The same year Forrest, a half-back with Blackburn Rovers, became the first professional to be capped for England.

## Six shillings set North against South

Christopher Irvine on the economic reality behind the foundation of rugby league

TWO very different insurrections occurred 61 years apart during Queen Victoria's reign. The first was at Tolpuddle and involved resistance by six farm labourers to a reduction in their wages. The other, less celebrated, caused the so-called "great schism" in rugby, between union and league. The argument in 1895 was over six shillings; it was also about class prejudice and provincialism.

The money compensated men who took time off work to play for teams in the North, which drew their strength from mills, factories and mines. "Broken time" payments amounted to creeping professionalism to the upper, and middle classes who ran rugby. The

Rugby Football Union, the governing body set up in 1871, was zealous in its pursuit of those who were paid — albeit trifling amounts. The blue collars of the North were set against the old school ties of the South. However, the North was by then the stronghold of English rugby and what the clubs really sought was control of their own affairs.

Events leading up to the breakaway by 20 Yorkshire and Lancashire clubs on August 25, 1895, soured relations for the next century. The RFU witch-hunt was led by the Rev Francis Marshall, a Yorkshire representative.

There were ingenious ways of hiding payments. In his history of rugby league, *A People's Game*, Geoffrey Moorhouse wrote that an entry in Leeds Parish Church Club's books was said to have covered the cost of cigars, champagne, an oyster supper, a theatre trip and a river cruise — while the team was playing on Merseyside.

The split occurred at the George Hotel in Huddersfield, where the

Northern Union was formed, based on the principle of bona fide broken time. In two years, the Northern Union (it did not become the Rugby League until 1922) had eliminated the lineup; in 1906, to better entertain spectators, it reduced the numbers on a team from 15 to 13. Rugby union in England was dealt a blow from which it never entirely recovered. The two sports have rarely been as closely aligned as after rugby union's adoption of professionalism in 1995 — rugby league's centenary year. The circle of six shillings has been squared by separate multi-million-pound deals and some players swapping between the codes.



## Man who made a century his own

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWO jubilees followed in quick session a century ago and both were seen as milestones of the age. A few months after Victoria had celebrated 60 years on the throne, W.G. Grace celebrated his 50th birthday with a guest appearance in the Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, a match attended by vast, autograph-seeking crowds and a torrent of advance publicity.

The match was something of an anti-climax. The little sportsman of the Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, a match attended by vast, autograph-seeking crowds and a torrent of advance publicity.

But, with the possible exception of Gladstone, Grace was the best-known Englishman of the late Victorian age. His records still enthral, but he could equally be quirky. In 1898, his last great season, he suddenly declared at 93 when obviously on his way to a century. Asked why, he said he had remembered that 93 was the only score between 0 and 100 he had never got. He died, aged 67, in 1915 from a heart attack during one of the first air raids of the First World War.

### NEXT

Dizzy's house of royal souvenirs, and the Gladstones who could never throw anything away. The world of Victorian politics

W.G. Grace retired in 1900 after scoring a total of 54,896 runs

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## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

## Jelly theatre serves up mould breaking drama

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A GIANT "jelly", a lorry and a wooden shed are among the more interesting places in which to find a piece of theatre at this year's Edinburgh festival.

With some 14,297 performances on the fringe alone — not to mention events on the main, film, jazz and book festivals — the desperation for a venue, however modest, is more acute than ever. Performances are everywhere and anywhere, where there's a group of people in Edinburgh, there's probably a happening of some kind near by.

"The world's largest jelly" — an 18ft-high inflatable nylon tent shaped like a jelly-mould — is sited on a lawn near the bustling Pleasance theatre. Inside, *Gaspi*, a play about inflated egos, is being



In tents experience: cast of *Gaspi* and the theatre where audiences wear lifejackets and eat jelly

staged by Economical Truth, drama graduates from Bristol University and elsewhere. Their makeshift theatre can take an audience of up to 30, each of whom is invited to don a lifejacket and tuck into a plate of jelly.

There is a sense of desperation about the actors, comics and musicians

handing out leaflets on street corners. The Comedy Café from London goes in search of audiences in a lorry with a 40-seat theatre. "Tripterranus", a show that could be said to have come off the back of a lorry, promises "verbal and visual gags".

At Mary King's Close in the city centre, drama is

set in haunted vaults. In staging Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*, the Grid Iron Theatre Company thought the setting would enhance the mood.

Last year, two rival performers threatened legal action over claims to having the smallest theatre on Earth; one of them performed in a motorcycle sidecar. This year, Paul Garner and Sarah Nield have created "the smallest Speakeasy in the world", a 12-seater shed where everything is in miniature.

Bar stools are so tiny, this show will make all but the slim feel uncomfortable. The two-hour show breaks every 15 minutes for different audience sittings. Yesterday, the heat was a problem. "Steam was rising off the roof," Mr Garner said. "But only the performers suffer."

Festival reports, page 15



Anti-road campaigners who took the mock protest a little too seriously yesterday. Several were arrested

## Protest actors get a whiff of reality

A PUBLICITY stunt to promote a play about road rage at the festival got out of hand yesterday when it prompted an environmental group to stage a protest that led to several arrests.

An estimated 200 people turned up after learning that the cast of *Road Rage*, "an anti-road protest play" by Andrew Loudon, would be holding a

mock protest. The director, searching for authenticity and striving to reproduce the sights, sounds and smells of an anti-road protest, had already introduced a no-bath rule among the actors, to get that "just unwashed grunge look".

Members of Reclaim the Streets, who want roads returned to pedestrians, turned up and blocked the Grassmarket

for two hours. Mr Loudon said the experience had been frightening. Until yesterday, he thought that he had over-dramatised the violence in his play's opening scene. "But what I saw was far more violent."

Although some of the cast were "keen to be arrested as they feel so strongly", none was and the show goes on.

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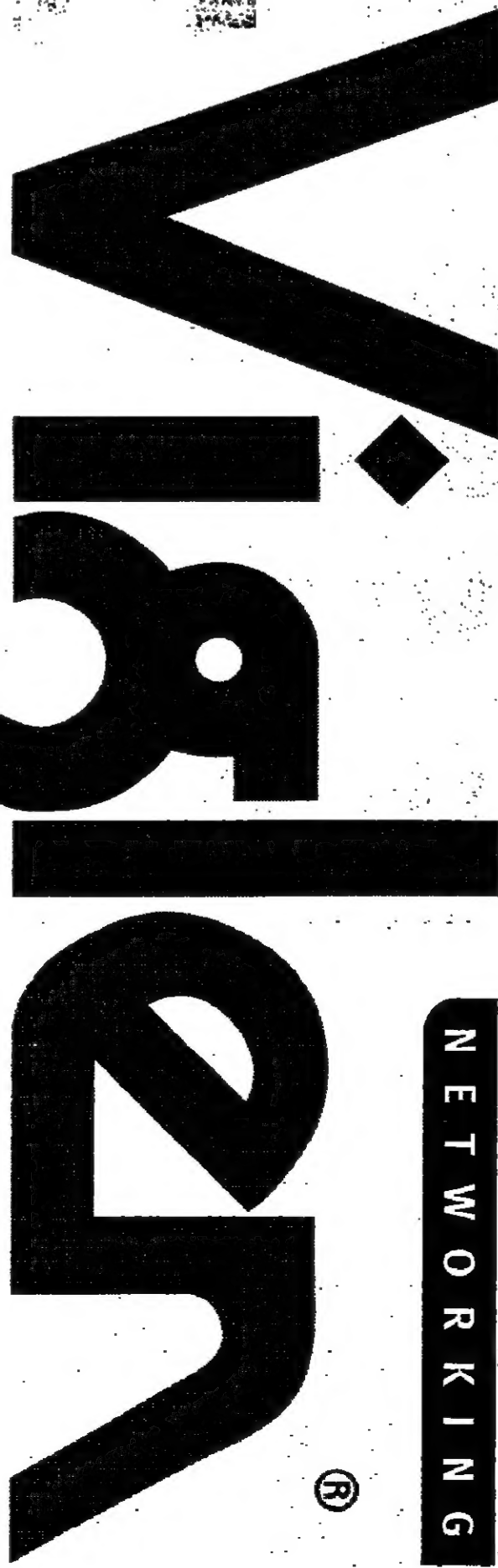
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Great Minds Think Viglen

## Police face corruption threat from dirty money

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONAIRE criminals are increasingly trying to corrupt or compromise detectives, according to the head of criminal intelligence operations.

Albert Pacey, director-general of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said police corruption was an increasing danger because of the large sums now available to organised crime. He said: "There is now concern among senior officers. I think the police service will need to be constantly on its guard."

Mr Pacey's comments come a few weeks after Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said there were up to 200 dishonest officers in his force he would like to dismiss. Other chief constables and Home Office officials are known to be concerned about corruption.

Mr Pacey, who reduces shortly, said there was a core of 140 "premier league" criminals at the top of the British underworld who the NCIS was now tracking. At least one of the targets is among the richest men in Britain.

He said the service was now so concerned about the risk of leaks or infiltration that a full-time security officer had been appointed. The officer, recruited from Whitehall and believed to be a former MIS officer, was chosen after a risk assessment by NCIS suggested that confidential files and operations could be at risk. Earlier this year the service was criticised after hundreds of transcripts of telephone taps went missing.

Mr Pacey, who is retiring after four years at the helm, said the risk from organised crime extended beyond police officers. In other countries, major criminals had suborned public servants, politicians and business communities. "Unless you watch carefully they can get a grip without people realising it," he said.

When officers told their counterparts abroad that Britain had seen little corruption so far, they were told that this could easily change.

Mr Pacey said that one way of limiting corruption would be to attack the criminals' assets, and that Britain should consider adopting gang-busting legislation used in America and the Irish Republic to seize assets. He said the amount of cash now seized in confiscations was tiny.

In Ireland, a law passed after the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin created a Criminal Assets Bureau. The bureau involves a partnership between police and tax authorities and since its inception courts have seized millions of pounds and put criminals to flight.

Mr Pacey said any legislation in Britain would appear draconian, but he said it would be aimed at serious criminals. "I can point to people living in council houses five years ago who now have massive homes, Jaguar cars and boats and all the appearances of immense wealth. I think there is going to have to be a change in the seizure of assets."



Pacey wants easier access to illegal assets



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# Plague of rats rules flooded Polish city

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN WROCLAW

AFTER dusk the ancient city of Wrocław becomes a city of rats. Black rats, brown rats, rats on a rooftop, rats that tap dance in the attic, the rodent legions that infested the Hamelin of the 'Pied Piper' have taken over this city as the floodwaters slowly ease along the River Oder.

Only one kind of rat is not on display: the thin rat, Sebastian Turkiewicz, the city's rat catcher, said. "They are so small that they are not even sniffing out the granulated poison." They have been gorging themselves on rubbish and rotting food which, having been swept through the streets by the floodwaters, is settling on doorsteps.

Normally rat packs have a taster, a hapless recruit to sample the bait while the others watch to see if it is safe. Today there is decomposing food in abundance, great mounds of vegetables under the washed-up tyres and planks. In the Kozanow housing estate in Wrocław, the water stormed into a fish shop and carried out hundreds of deep-frozen fish.

Slawek Kosmowski, clearing waste from her living room with a broom and a bucket, is relaxed about the rats' take-over bid. For the moment she is more concerned about the mosquito swarms that fly in as soon as the window is opened.



A brown rat: prodigious ability to reproduce

"Close the window and you sweat; open it and you are bitten. The rats leave us alone — but they are getting nervous." You can see them in daylight, running in threes and fours as if on patrol. They seem to have lost their fear.

There are three million of the rodents in Wrocław, four for every inhabitant of this southwestern Polish city. Soon that number could double or treble. Female rats take 24 days to come to term. The first response of the rats, once they had saved themselves from the torments, was to couple. Typically a rat would give birth to five or seven offspring, of whom three or four might die because of a lack of food. Now there is no shortage.

Many cellars are still under water: the sewerage is still

blocked in some districts. Faeces float around once-busy streets or are fished out by men in boats. As the sun beats down, there is a terrible stench. Lavanaries throw back their contents. Electricity works in only a few households. Vegetables, the local hygiene office says, should be washed in water that has been boiled for at least five minutes.

Slowly, almost a month after the first torrent, order is returning. But the rats have taken command. Ewa Bochniarz recalls the rats' initial response. "They were drooling on to the high branches of trees, on top of the traffic lights and road signs." Rats sense catastrophe early — not only sinking ships but also earthquakes and floods — and they swim strongly. They not only sense disaster, they survive it.

When American scientists visited a Pacific atoll that had been battered by atomic tests, they found everything, every plant, had been killed or burnt away, apart from a pack of healthy rats. This capacity for survival may explain the shifting attitudes in Wrocław. "Normally we would have beaten him to death," said Barbara Gornik, on the Kozanow estate. "But when I saw the rat struggling for his life, clinging to a branch, I just had to throw him a piece of wood. He clambered onto the raft and I suppose I saved his life."

In a strange way, some of these people under stress seem



Wrocław under water during the recent floods. Now that the River Oder is at last returning to its course, local people are faced with a matter of immediate health concern: how to get rid of the army of rats

to mimic the social protocols and solidarity of the rat world (biologists have recorded incidents of healthy rats leading blind ones along gutters with a piece of straw). Teenage thugs smashed in the windows of a private bicycle shop and looted the stock during the early days of the flooding.

They then offered the bikes free to stranded flood victims who were crossing streets on improvised pontoon bridges. But the flood victims refused the offer: they did not want to benefit from looted property.

The patience with the rats may soon run out and then Wrocław will be turning to the

West for poison aid. The most effective weapon, Wrocław officials say, are anti-coagulants which fool the "taster" rats and which take some time to work.

The floods spared the recently renovated market square, though not the university library (700 volumes are

being dried out with bloting paper). The hope is that the 17,000 evacuees will soon be able to return and that the city will be in order again by the autumn, in time to attract at least a few tourists. First, though, the rats will have to go and humans will have to assert control again.

## Fossil of bird with hooves found in Outback

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN SYDNEY

Scientists in Australia have discovered the fossil of the largest bird that ever lived, an ostrich-like creature that was as tall as an elephant.

Experts say the prehistoric bird, which stood 9.8ft tall and had hooves like a horse, was a third bigger than any specimen previously discovered.

Palaeontologist Peter Murray, who discovered the fossilised skeleton of the bird, known as *Alcoota dromornis*, outside Alice Springs, said the bird would have been as heavy as a bullock and could run at up to 16 miles an hour. He claims the flightless bird, which lived about eight million years ago, was bigger than Madagascar's giant elephant bird, which up to now has been regarded as the biggest bird that ever lived.

Dr Murray has assembled the skeleton of the bird for the Museum of Central Australia in Alice Springs, where he is curator. He said the *Alcoota dromornis* had human-sized legs and three long, slender toes on each hoofed foot. "It would not have been ferocious, but if attacked it would have been able to kick its opponents to death and it would have been able to outrun anything that might have been after it."

The fossilised skeleton of the *Alcoota dromornis* is the latest in a series of discoveries to be made at Alcoota, outside Alice Springs. A number of fossils have been found there over the past 13 years.

Dr Murray said yesterday he had also discovered bones of a giant, rhinoceros-like marsupial that could either be a much bigger specimen of a herbivore known as *Pyramios alcootense* or of a previously undiscovered creature. He said: "The story is very exciting. We knew that *Pyramios* had a large range of sizes, but the bones we have found show it a third bigger than anything previously discovered — about the size of a small rhino or an Asian buffalo."

Dr Murray said he planned to write about his discoveries for scientific journals. He said: "I suppose it is time we knew about it, but you keep discovering new things."

## Berlin raids on building sites catch foreigners

BY DEBORAH COLCUTT

IN A series of raids on government building sites in Berlin, authorities have arrested scores of foreign workers and employees for offences including working illegally.

The *Bild* daily reported that teams of tax investigators, border police and state legislators found 173 illegal workers employed on some big government building projects, including the new parliament on Unter den Linden boulevard.

Eight raids, between February and June this year, uncovered many offences being committed on the sites, such as illegal employment and undercutting of the statutory minimum wage, putting jobs of German developers and builders at risk.

On three separate visits to the Reichstag building site, authorities exposed 13 firms that had hired 67 illegal foreign workers for cut-price wages. Similar operations were encountered at the sites of the new Justice Ministry, the federal press office, an armed forces hospital and on land where civil service accommodation is being built.

Last night, the Berlin prosecutor's office would not comment on the nationalities of the workers arrested. About 50,000 British builders are employed in eastern Germany and in rebuilding Berlin, which takes over from Bonn as capital next year.

Most of the workers allegedly claim unemployment benefit and pay no tax or national insurance. They also endure appalling conditions, both on and off site, for wages that outstrip rates paid in their home countries.

## Waigel will press for cut in Bonn payments to EU

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THEO WAIHEL, the German Finance Minister, may resort to blocking parliamentary business to force a reduction in Bonn's contributions to the European Union.

In an interview in this week's *Spiegel* magazine, Herr Waigel says Germany will sanction grants to Europe's poorer regions, when they are reviewed in 1999, only if "we get a new burden-sharing as well". At present, Germany not only pays more — around £16 billion — to Brussels, but also gets back less than any other EU nation in grants and financial support.

"It is no longer acceptable that one country, Germany, should meet a 60 per cent share of the EU's expenditure," Herr Waigel told the magazine.

He proposes that Germany contribute 0.4 per cent instead of the present 0.6 per cent of the gross national product to Brussels, a reduction of up to £2.4 billion.

Supported by the ruling coalition and the opposition Social Democrats, Herr Waigel recently told regional governments that Germany was paying nearly £5 billion more to the EU than it can afford in the present economic climate of weak growth and record high unemployment. Between 1991 and 1996, this amounted to Bonn contributing £48 billion more than it got back.

The details of the new plan are contained in "Agenda 2000", which Herr Waigel plans to present to EU colleagues this autumn in support of a reduction in

contributions for Bonn by the end of the century.

The sudden haste with which the matter is being dealt stems from the fear among party leaders and economists that financial demands on Germany will increase with every new member admitted to the EU.

Herr Waigel also told *Spiegel* that Germany was not as well off as it was before unification. "Germany has the right to demand a change to our contribution rate because of a change in our wealth," he said.

Herr Waigel also accused tax-haven countries, such as Britain (Channel Islands and Isle of Man), Ireland and Luxembourg, which profit from EU transfers, of "unfair tax dumping".

He complained of being "bled dry" by such countries which lure large German companies and banks abroad with the promise of attractive tax rates. He called on all EU members to unite politically to stamp out this practice.

□ Dresden: German prosecutors said yesterday that two soldiers had admitted fire-bombing an Italian workers' hostel because they hated foreigners. The soldiers, aged 18 and 20, were detained on Sunday after the building in Dresden was badly damaged on Saturday. No one was hurt and the Italians had gone on holiday the day before the attack, police said. Authorities found swastikas daubed on the building and said witnesses reported that the suspected attackers had shouted Nazi slogans shortly after the fire started. (Reuters)



Plavsic: her own police force will be allowed

## Karadzic guards outlawed

Sarajevo: Special police forces in Bosnia will be banned unless they are used to protect senior elected officials or dignitaries, a spokesman for the Nato-led peace force said yesterday.

By the end of August any police personnel not certified by the UN police will be judged illegal, said Major John Blakeley. Since special police forces in the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia have protected indicted war crimes suspects, such as Radovan Karadzic, the new police could further isolate the wartime Serb leader. There are up to 3,000 "specials".

International officials indicated that Bosnian Serb police forces protecting Biljana Plavsic, the elected President of Republika Srpska, would be allowed to continue their work.

The Foreign Office resumed contact in London yesterday with the Bosnian charge d'affaires, Magdim Pasalic, following agreement in Bosnia over the appointment of joint ambassadors. (AP/AFIP)

## Typhoid and cholera come back to haunt Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S creaking health-care system is struggling to fight off lethal diseases, both old and new, which threaten to raise the nation's staggering mortality rate.

In the latest health scare, Sergei Shoigu, the head of the Emergency Ministry, has flown to the southern republic of Dagestan to help to combat an outbreak of typhoid. In the past few weeks the disease has swept through several villages near the Caspian Sea, leaving 108 victims in hospital, nearly half of them children. The region is noted for annual epidemics of other waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

This year the capital is not taking any chances of a cholera outbreak, as it prepares for

its 850th anniversary celebration. Under an order signed by the chief medical officer of Moscow, all traders arriving in the city from Central Asia, the Caucasus and some Russian republics will be obliged to undergo a compulsory vaccination or face arrest.

Aside from cholera and typhoid, other diseases practically eradicated in the West are growing here. Russia has the highest tuberculosis rate in Europe. It has witnessed an explosion in sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, although AIDS is still relatively rare. Between 1991 and 1996 nearly half of the world's diphtheria outbreaks were recorded in Russia.

A report released earlier this year revealed that life expectancy for men in Russia is 59 years and 73 years for women.

In the world league table Russia ranks in 135th place for men and 100th for women, behind all of Europe, America and most of Asia.

The dramatic drop in life expectancy is largely blamed on the scourge of alcoholism, which since the collapse of the Soviet Union has reached epidemic proportions. Russians on average drink more than 13 litres of pure alcohol annually for every man, woman and child, double the per capita consumption figure in 1990.

When Mikhail Gorbachev launched his anti-alcohol campaign in 1986-1987, life expectancy rose to 65, the highest in Russia's history.

## Bets off after ban on Turkish casinos

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKISH casino owners have been left wondering whether to throw in their hands after President Demirel reluctantly signed a law forcing the closure of a casino industry conservatively valued at £1.27 billion.

Mr Demirel had previously vetoed legislation drawn up by the then Islamic-led Government which gave casino operators six months to cash in their chips. He did so on the ground that the law violated existing contractual agreements between many five-star hotels and international operators.

However, the new secular-minded Government surprised many observers by presenting the Bill again to

parliament successfully, thus obliging the President to give his consent.

The Turkish press had its fair sprinkling of tragic tales of respectable family men cracking under the strain of gambling debts. That led to a series of regulations stopping casinos from offering perks such as free drinks and a chauffeured limousine to ferry high fliers home from the tables. However, the real public pressure to close the casinos has less to do with a religious backlash than with the widely held suspicion that at least some of the country's 78 gambling halls are run by organised crime.

Casinos awash with cash are popularly seen as one of the links in a series of scandals connecting the police, politicians and organised crime. One casino owner, suspected by American drug enforcement agents of being a key figure in the heroin trade, was murdered in a highly "professional" attack.

Among those accused of the crime are four policemen, members of an elite squad who later served as bodyguards to an MP in Tansu Ciller's True Path party.

Ibrahim Gurdal, the Minister for Tourism, is betting that the legislation will still fail. He said at the weekend that the new law would provoke legal challenges abroad as well as in Turkey's constitutional court.



Ciller: latest scandal came close to her

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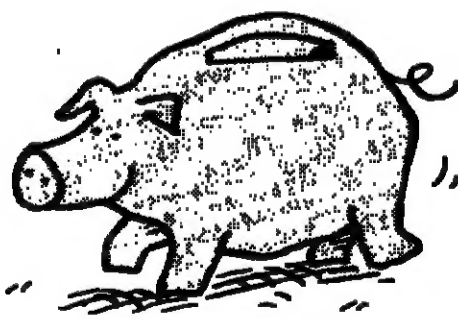
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# US envoy smooths peace path

FROM ROSS DUNN  
IN JERUSALEM

AMERICAN efforts to revive the Middle East peace process made headway yesterday as Israeli and Palestinian intelligence chiefs met amid intense shuttle diplomacy by President Clinton's envoy, Dennis Ross.

But thousands of Palestinians, including supporters of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad, rallied in the West Bank town of Ramallah and Gaza City against Israel's policies. After the Ramallah demonstration, more than 100 young men burnt tyres and threw stones at Israeli soldiers manning an army checkpoint outside the entrance to the city.

Nevertheless, Mr Ross continued to emphasise the need for the two sides to restore security co-operation after the suicide-bomb attack in Jerusalem two weeks ago. The attack

claimed a sixteenth victim yesterday when a 49-year-old man died of injuries suffered in the twin blast at the marketplace on July 30.

Mr Ross's plea was in line with statements by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Clinton. At the same time the American envoy made it clear that at a later date Israel would have to be flexible over Palestinian demands on political issues.

"What we have here is a situation where we need to re-establish a security basis because that can pave the way for putting the process back on track and addressing the political side," he said.

"There has to be, as I have said, a security underpinning. But the political issues also have to be addressed. We want to see the Israeli-Palestinian track go forward because it is the key for making everything else [in the Middle East] work.

We want to see efforts at a broader comprehensive settlement pursued as well."

Mr Ross's comments came during a news conference, briefly interrupting a hectic schedule of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Ramallah, where he held talks with Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority.

The US envoy was dispatched to the region to repair the breakdown in relations between Israel and the Palestinians after the suicide bomb-

ings. Israeli military intelligence officials have yet to determine the identities of the two bombers, but maintain they were most likely Palestinians from the West Bank.

The families of the men at present suspected of having been the attackers have refused to submit to a DNA test, further hampering the Israeli investigation.

Last night thousands of Palestinian protesters marched down Gaza's main street demanding that Israel

free their imprisoned sons and end a closure it imposed after the suicide attack. "As long as my son is in prison, I don't feel any peace," said a woman, whose 24-year-old son, Ahmad, is serving a life term in an Israeli jail.

The protesters carried photos of their husbands and sons and waved Palestinian flags. "Yasser — we are with you," one sign read, referring to Mr Arafat.

Palestinian officials say 3,500 political prisoners remain in Israeli jails.

Meanwhile, Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, accused forces loyal to Mr Arafat of firing rockets from Lebanese soil that injured a woman in northern Israel last Friday. In a telephone interview with the French daily *Le Monde*, he said: "It appears that these were Arab rockets who launched these rockets." But he did not offer evidence to support the allegation.

Mr Hariri said Hezbollah guerrillas, fighting to drive Israeli troops from their south Lebanon "security zone", had denied firing the rockets and that he believed them. Israel retaliated for the rocket attack with air attacks on southern Lebanon guerrilla bases.

Mr Hariri also criticised comments Mr Arafat made after the suicide bombing, saying that Mr Arafat had accepted the word of Israeli intelligence in blaming foreigners for the attack, and that this explained why Israel was attacking Lebanon.

"He takes his information from the Israelis, even though he knows it to be false," Mr Hariri said. "Mr Arafat well knows that Lebanon has endured much and continues to do so to defend the Palestinian cause. The Israelis hold him responsible for their safety. He responds that they [the suicide bombers] came from abroad," Mr Hariri said.

## 'Israeli torture' claim

Nabatieh: Amnesty International criticised Israel yesterday for refusing to allow it access to a jail in south Lebanon where the human rights group says Lebanese prisoners are being tortured.

"It seems that there is something happening in the Khiam jail which Israel

wants to hide. Torture is still ongoing there," Serge Thibodeau, representative of the Canadian branch of the London-based human rights group, said.

About 150 Lebanese are held in Khiam prison, many detained for more than ten years without trial or charge.

## Blairs take chateau retreat on Jospin's doorstep

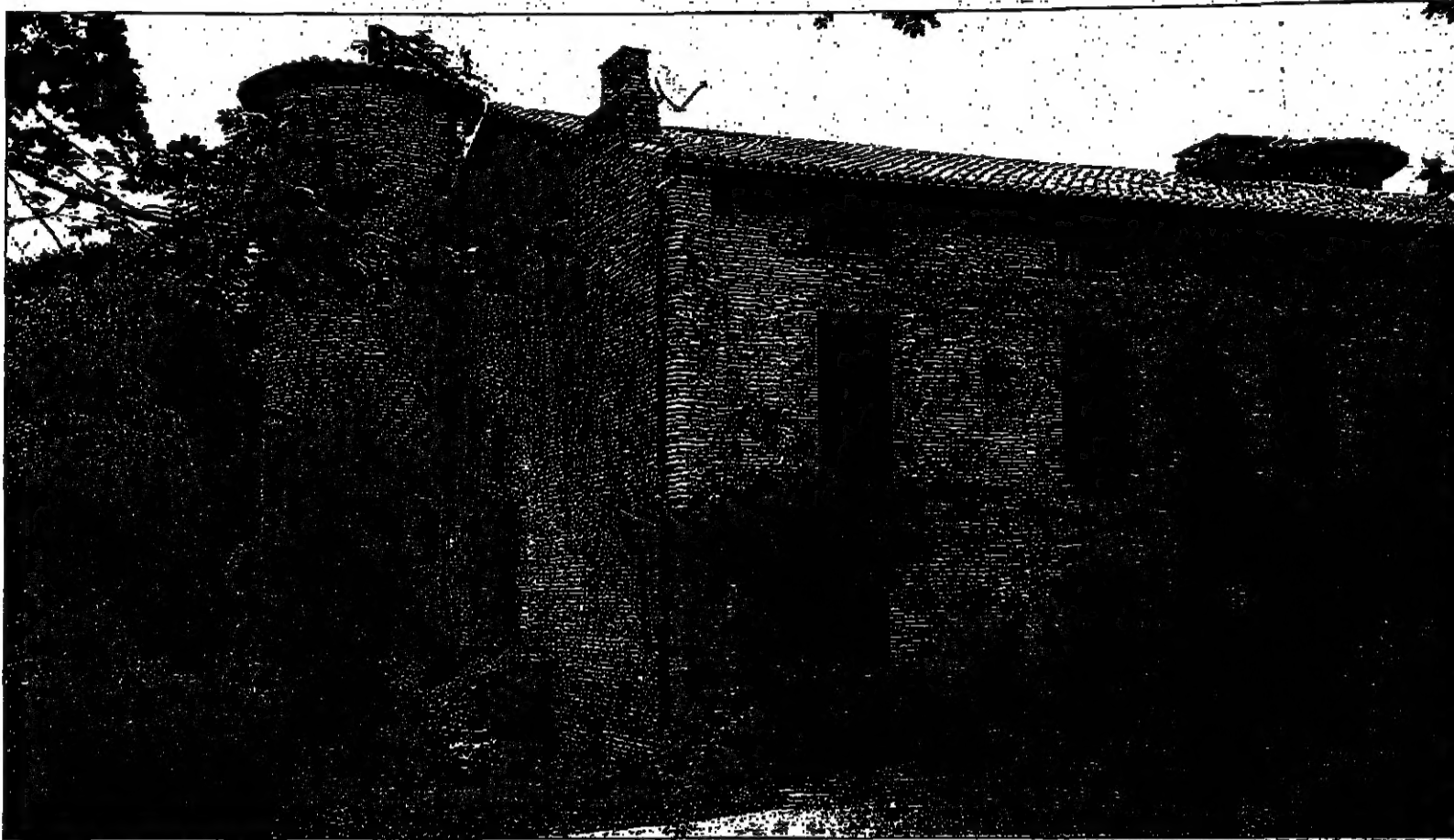
BY SUSAN BELL  
IN PARIS  
AND GLEN OWEN

TONY BLAIR will spend a week's holiday with his family in a picturesque French chateau less than eight miles from Cointegabelle, the political fief of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, the French press reported yesterday.

The news that Mr Blair, "the most important man in the United Kingdom", will leave Tuscany on Sunday for the tiny village of Saint-Martin-d'Oydes, 30 miles south of Toulouse, was splashed triumphantly across the front page of the local paper, the *Depêche du Midi*, under the headline "The British Premier Lord of the Manor in Ariège".

According to the newspaper, Mr Blair, his wife Cherie and children, Nicholas, Katherine and Ewan, are to stay for just over a week at the 12th-century chateau owned by Sir David Keene, a High Court judge, who sits at the hub of the Blairs' circle of legal friends. The "particularly picturesque" village of Saint-Martin-d'Oydes, with its fortified houses clustered in a circle around the church, should be an ideal retreat.

The chateau has more than four acres of gardens, a swimming pool and, most importantly, high walls to protect the Prime Minister and his family from the prying lenses of the paparazzi. In this tranquil setting, the Blairs will be able to enjoy such regional specialties as *cassoulet*. According to the *Depêche du Midi* it is not the first time the

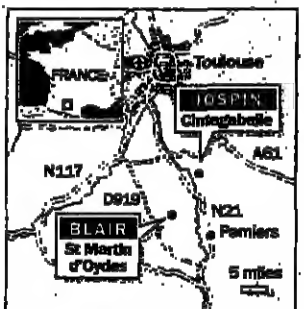


The chateau at Saint-Martin d'Oydes, which belongs to Sir David Keene, a High Court judge, where the Blairs will stay.

family have spent holidays in this corner of the Ariège, between Pamiers and the Leze valley.

Yesterday speculation on the opportunity for an informal summit between the British and French leaders was rife. M Jospin, who is on holiday in the fashionable resort of Ile de Ré off La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast, is due back in Paris at the end of the week. Although it could not confirm a meeting between the two, his Paris office said yesterday that "he could well be in Cointegabelle on Sunday", the day of Mr Blair's arrival.

Even if the two leaders do not meet next week, Mr Blair can meet the local welcome will be warm. Saint-Martin's 198 inhabitants are reported to



be in a turmoil of excitement, while the mayor, André Bordenave, has called a special meeting of the town council to plan a welcoming ceremony. A reception to which the whole village would be invited to share a glass of wine with the British leader is likely, but M Bordenave said the final decision would be

taken "after we have seen Mr Keene".

The community may be hoping that Mr Blair's visit will put their tiny hamlet on the map in the same way that M Jospin's elevation to the premiership in May has turned Cointegabelle into a popular tourist attraction.

Sir David, 57, was appointed to the bench in 1994 after a long and lucrative career at the Bar, taking on cases which ranged across the political spectrum. As a specialist in local government and planning law he acted for Chris Patten, then the Environment Secretary, in High Court actions to cap the spending of local authorities. More recently, he took on "Swampy" and his fellow eco-warriors by putting the case for

Manchester Airport's second runway at the public inquiry in 1994.

Sir David's position as a core member of the Blair legal circle was confirmed by his invitation to the Prime Minister's Downing Street reception at the end of last month.

The assemblage of people Mr Blair considered "modern forward thinkers", such as Noel Gallagher, Michael Cairns and Leroy Healy, also included Sir David and other legal friends built up during Mr Blair's time at the Bar. Several of those invited, including Peter Goldsmith QC, former chairman of the Bar, are star performers, with earnings reputed to be close to seven figures.



Keene: hub of Blair's legal inner circle

## Republicans moan as Clinton uses new veto powers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON struck three provisions from the new tax and budget Bills yesterday, the first time an American President has wielded a long-sought power called the line-item veto.

Mr Clinton said in the Oval Office that his gesture would send a signal that "the Washington rules have changed for good". Special interests would no longer be able to play the old game of slipping tax concessions into huge Bills in the hope that nobody would notice. The new authority was a powerful tool to protect taxpayers, he said.

However, Republicans who gave Mr Clinton the line-item veto power in a Bill passed last year complained. Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, accused the President of playing petty politics. He said Mr Clinton had broken the hard-fought bipartisan agreement on tax and spending cuts reached last week to balance the federal budget in five years.

None of the three items affected by the stroke of President Clinton's pen was a colossal saving by American budget standards. The biggest was to cancel a provision which allowed financial service companies to shelter income in foreign tax havens to avoid all US taxation. That decision will save the Government \$317 million (£200 million) over five years.

The second closed a loophole in Medicaid spending for the poor and disabled that would have benefited New York State unfairly by \$700 million. The third

voked a tax concession to food processing companies that sell their plants to farmers' co-operatives. It was aimed at Harold Simmons, a Texas multimillionaire and a generous contributor to the Republican Party, who would have avoided capital gains on the sale of his sugar-beet refinery to a co-operative.

The line-item veto in effect gives the President editorial power over money Bills to delete specific tax concessions or spending proposals that he dislikes without having to veto the entire legislation.

The line-item veto was promised in the Republicans' *Contract with America* and they passed the measure knowing that the first President to take advantage of it would be a Democrat.

For generations, Presidents have sought the line-item dispensation, which is available to many state Governors. When he signed the Bill into law, Mr Clinton said it would allow Presidents to fight special interest "boondoggles", tax loopholes and "pure pork" — bloated spending.

Mr Clinton's action yesterday is expected to provoke a legal challenge that will go all the way to the Supreme Court on the ground that the line-item veto undermines the constitutional authority of Congress to legislate taxes.

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# Dying Raj protected perverse princes

On eve of independence, British burnt the records kept by spies on maharajahs' secret sex lives

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FIFTY years after being coaxed, cajoled or forced at gunpoint into joining India, hundreds of former princes and their offspring, their freedoms and privileges gone, are broken men. A few are powerful politicians. Some are hoteliers living in private wings of great palaces, opened up for profit, members of a new entrepreneurial elite.

Their forebears' excesses hang over them in constant embarrassment. The Raj kept meticulous records of the maharajahs' sexual predilections, a record so explosive that two months before independence the files were burnt. History has thus been denied the finer details of the private lives of the world's most fantastic chieftains of yesteryear.

Records of records were burnt on the orders of Sir Conrad Corfield, the Viceroy's political secretary, who spent his life representing the maharajahs' interests. He had India's princes at the treatment of the aristocracy, as independence approached. The princes were denied what they most wanted: their own independence.

Glennan, Atlee's Government approved the destruction of the files, amassed over 150 years, because they lent themselves to blackmail. Jawaharlal Nehru, about to become independent India's first



Prime Minister, protested at this destruction of historical records, but even he did so for profit: members of all over India, consuming the labours of generations of spies and informers. Some of the information in those files was part of well-informed gossip over

6 The Maharajah of Alwar, a man of sadistic tastes, routinely used village boys as bait on his tiger shoots.

Spies kept in that most vital institution of the Raj, the club. It became known, for example, that an early Nawab of Bhopal, before fellow princes that he could deflower more virgins in a year than they could. Village girls were brought to his palace in flocks; they left without the gold nose ring that indicated a virgin.

Sir Hari Singh, last Maharajah of Kashmir, was caught in bed with a woman in the Savoy Hotel, London, by a man masquerading as her husband. He was blackmailed out of a fortune. The woman's real husband eventually exposed the scandal, leading to a trial in which Sir Hari was known only as "Mr A". Thereafter his sexual exploits focused on orgies with young men in the safety of his palaces in Srinagar and Jammu.

The files burnt by Sir Conrad contained much information about the sadistic tastes of the Maharajah of Alwar, who routinely used village boys as bait on his tiger shoots. Anybody hoping to become an officer in his army had to participate in his orgies, which often ended with ritual killings. He became too obscene to tolerate, and the British forced him into exile.

None has sunk to a lower ebb than the royal house of Oudh, which ruled over five million people from its capital, Lucknow, now the capital of Uttar Pradesh state. Princess Rajkumari Sakina Mahal and her brother, Prince Rajkumar Cyrus Riza, last of the line, live in a mouldering 13th-century hunting lodge in the Delhi woods, which bakes in summer, freezes in winter and leaks in the monsoon.

Their mother, Princess Wilayat Mahal, killed herself in 1993 by swallowing crushed diamonds. Her children live out their lives of squalor with a collection of large dogs that warn off intruders, although there is nothing left to steal. They share their abode with mice, chipmunks, birds and bats, and two anguished hermits waiting to die.

At the other end of the scale, Arvind Singh Mewar, Maharaja of Udaipur, runs successful hotels, enabling him to maintain his magnificent palaces and retain the devotion that always fell naturally to the aristocracy, even the most perverse, given the belief that they descended from the gods.



A maharajah and the Prince of Wales, on a visit to India in 1922, perch on top of the royal elephant Hiraz for a procession, accompanied by members of the royal suite. These scenes of royal and princely grandeur came to an abrupt end when India gained its independence in 1947.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Guard on Pakistani mosques

KARACHI: Pakistan deployed paramilitary troops in Punjab province after sectarian violence led to the deaths of more than 50 people in the past five days (Zahid Hussain writes). The troops are guarding mosques and other religious buildings which have been the main targets of the strife.

The military move came after 18 Shia Muslims were killed on Saturday, allegedly by Sunni extremists seeking revenge for an attack on a mosque in Lahore last week.

### Farm disaster

AMSTERDAM: The Netherlands' livestock industry has been thrown into chaos by the country's worst ever swine fever epidemic. More than five million pigs have been culled since February.

### Germ war claim

TOKYO: More than 100 Chinese are suing the Japanese Government for allegedly killing hundreds of people by dropping plague-infected fleas on Zhejiang province in October 1940. (AP)

### Bribes admitted

SEOUL: Two South Korean businessmen said in court that millions of dollars they gave to a son of President Kim Young Sam were bribes. Kim Hyun Chul, 37, was arrested in May on corruption charges. (AP)

### Mugabe mocked

HARARE: President Mugabe was defied by 300 veterans of Zimbabwe's liberation war who jeered him at the Heroes Day event. The poor veterans are bitter over the affluence of a coterie of politicians.

### Tomb unearthed

BEIJING: Archaeologists have found a 6,000-year-old tomb at a building site near Zhengzhou, in central China. It contains skeletal remains, pots, bowls, a bone needle and other artefacts. (AP)

## Communist's killers tell of post-apartheid fears

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN PRETORIA

TWO convicted killers gave their reasons yesterday for murdering Chris Hani, the South African Communist leader, four years ago. They said they feared he would impose an oppressive Eastern bloc-style regime.

James Walus and Clive Derby-Lewis, who are serving life jail terms for the murder on April 10, 1993, denied speculation that they were part of a larger conspiracy; they said they had acted alone.

The two said they were motivated by South Africa's most powerful rightwing group of the time, the Conservative Party, which they said was "at war" with liberation groups. Derby-Lewis, formerly a senior Conservative Party leader and member of parliament, and Walus both denied guilt during their trial, but

have since applied for an amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The commission, which is investigating human rights abuses carried out during the apartheid era, has the power to grant amnesty to criminals who fully admit their guilt and can prove political motives.

In statements to the commission, Walus, a Polish immigrant, said that he and Derby-Lewis carried out the murder alone, disputing reports that it had been masterminded by the apartheid Government which was then still in power.

South African newspapers have also speculated that some of Hani's allies in the now-ruling African National Congress may have been involved. Hani, an enormously popular leader, was shot in the

head outside his home near Johannesburg.

Walus said that he emigrated to South Africa because he believed it was "governed by Africans who would never capitulate to communism, the latter ideology being by definition godless and thus anti-Christian". He said he feared the coming to power of Hani would plunge South Africa into a communism "of the same or worse type than that experienced in Poland".

The killers' evidence was delayed yesterday by legal argument over whether statements made by the two prisoners after their arrest should be made admissible. The killers said that the statements were irrelevant because they made them when detectives had deprived them of sleep and given them alcohol.

## Envoy's Russian wife braced for tough Cambodian debut

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PHNOM PENH is a long way from Nizhny Novgorod. But when Lena Edgar leaves her family in Russia to join her husband in Cambodia, she will take up a post unimaginable a decade ago. Not only is she the wife of Britain's youngest ambassador, but she is the only Russian to help her husband to represent Britain abroad.

In the wake of the Soviet Union's demise, the Foreign Office no longer puts a ban on diplomats marrying Russians. George Edgar, on temporary leave from the diplomatic service, was posted in Tajikistan with an international agency, and met Lena, a journalist; they married three years ago.

Now, at the age of 37, he has just arrived in Phnom Penh, where he has the hazardous job of keeping watch over the 300-strong British community, encouraging British business investment and discouraging footloose tourists.



Lena Edgar with husband George, Britain's man in Phnom Penh, and their daughter Anna

Mrs Edgar is not worried by a post in one of the world's most unstable countries. She and her husband will be virtually confined to the capital, as the countryside, apart from one or two areas, is still too dangerous for travel. But they will be well guarded; and Mrs Edgar will have time to bring up Anna, their daughter, and write the occasional piece for

the BBC World Service. In two days of seminars and discussion from the British Spouses Association, she was given all the tips of old hands posted abroad: how to avoid trouble, ensure security and get by on basic provisions. Making friends in a new post is clearly vital: Mrs Edgar hopes to see a lot of the Russians who live in Cambodia.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

## Win one of 7 scooters



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This week *The Times* gives you the chance to win one of seven fabulous Piaggio scooters worth approximately £11,600 in total. Scooters are the 90s way to get about: fast, safe, ideal for getting through traffic jams, as environmentally friendly as motorised wheels get, and they cost only about three pence a mile to run.

The Vespa, a recognised style icon, was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. Today we feature the ET4 125cc fully automatic scooter — Piaggio's 50th anniversary model — which has an on the road price of £2,560.

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front disc brake and a built-in ignition immobiliser. It also comes with Piaggio's unique three-year unlimited mileage warranty. Other Piaggio scooter prizes on offer this week are: two Vespa ET2s; a Liberty; an NRG; a Zip SP (Sport Production) and a Hexagon 125cc.

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Collect four tokens from *The Times* this week and send them with the entry form, appearing on Thursday, stating which scooter you would like to win. The closing date is Friday September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.

For more information on the Vespa range, call 0800 20 30 10





# Lourdes: hysteria or hope?

Each year five million pilgrims go to Lourdes. Sue Corrigan discovers what they find when they arrive

**S**heltering in the foothills of the majestic Pyrenees and split by a rushing turquoise river, Lourdes is a place of appealing natural beauty. Casual observers tend, however, to be appalled by what they see there, and by what the town appears to represent.

The isolated rural hamlet of 150 years ago has been transformed by religious fervour into a huge tourist centre attracting five million visitors each year. Lourdes has more hotels than any place in France other than Paris. It seems to have more tacky souvenir shops than any other place on earth, most selling the same horrible array of plastic icons and statues, mixed in with T-shirts, baseball caps and garish rosary beads.

Even worse is the distressing sight of thousands of sick, disabled, infirm, deformed and dying people, their wheelchairs and stretchers clogging the town's streets, churches and squares. An avalanche of human suffering and pain, almost unbearable to observe in its pathos.

It's hardly surprising, therefore, that Lourdes has something of an image problem, that it's regarded by many as a symbol of religiosity at its worst — deeply irrational, grossly commercialised and, ultimately, exploitative.

That, however, is the view from the outside. Like many judgments based solely on external appearances, it is quite misleading. From deep inside the heart of Lourdes, looking out, the view is very different.

I went there a few weeks ago as a pilgrim, one of 760 people travelling together from the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. My severely disabled son, Shane, aged 7, accompanied me. He was to



A volunteer with a disabled pilgrim: "Lourdes helps make sense of pain and suffering. It is Christianity in action in its purest, most impressive, most life-changing form"

join the vast throngs moving slowly through the town's narrow streets in his wheelchair. I to join the many hundreds of heartbroken mothers there.

I wasn't sure before I left whether I was doing the right thing by going, and I wasn't sure what I'd find when I got there. All I knew was that I needed to make the journey, that Lourdes was somehow calling me, that I needed to find somewhere to take all the

anger and pain and grief I've been struggling with for the past seven years, and that have at times threatened to overwhelm me.

My father, a doctor, thought I was crazy. My husband, who would never dream of going, was worried it might prove too distressing. Only my mother, who has been there herself, seemed to understand and approve. "I hope it brings you peace," she said.

I was glad of her support.

but I wasn't sure what she meant. How could an exhausting journey with hundreds of strangers, many of them sick and in pain, on top of a week spent pushing a wheelchair through thousands of swarming tourists, possibly leave me feeling peaceful?

I was impelled to go far more by curiosity than hope. In large measure, I concluded, I was going because I'm a born nosy parker. I was intensely curious to see what a

pilgrimage involved in the late 20th century. Unaware they still took place until I chanced to pick up a leaflet about Lourdes in Westminster Cathedral earlier this year, I had ignorantly assumed that mass pilgrimages were something people undertook in the Middle Ages, not nowadays.

Even more than feeling an inexplicable urge to go there with my own son, I was keen to find out what motivated so many other people to travel there. Why were they going? What did they hope to find?

The first inkling of what awaited my son and me at Lourdes occurred as soon as we boarded one of the numerous coaches converging on Dover from all over Sussex and southern Surrey. In a most un-English way, complete strangers smiled at me, introduced themselves and launched into animated and excited conversation. Shane and I were inundated with offers of help and small kindnesses. This pleasant, though rather unsettling, experience continued as we assembled at Dover, boarded the ferry for the short crossing to Calais and then tumbled on to a rattling old French train for the overnight trip to Lourdes.

**A**mong our fellow pilgrims, I discovered, Shane and I were virtually the only ones making maiden voyages. With only a few exceptions, the people I spoke to were all returning to Lourdes, some for the ninth, tenth, even seventeenth and eighteenth time. Each person spoke as though he or she were going to an extraordinarily special place, a place quite unlike any other. I was more and more intrigued.

The specially reserved train we were travelling in — about half a mile long — included three ambulance cars, containing 120 beds. They were filled with sick and disabled patients, quite a few of them seriously ill. Several people were brought to the train on stretchers, tubes and intravenous drips held aloft by carers. There were also 35 nurses and ten doctors aboard the train, all volunteers paying to go to Lourdes to work flat out all week for no pay.

They were joined by 250 other helpers, many of them strapping teenagers — who also pay for the privilege of spending a week voluntarily helping the ill, the disabled, the infirm — and around 200 able pilgrims. The male volunteers are known as *brancardiers* (French for "stretcher-bearers"), the females as "handmaids".

These volunteers do anything and everything — juggling hundreds of suitcases and heavy boxes of medical equipment on and off trains, pushing wheelchairs, tending the sick, entertaining children and babysitting. Much of the equipment required for the journey must be obtained and packed in advance: 40 wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, heavy medical boxes, food and kitchen equipment for the train trip, blankets and bedding for the

many of them feel, but which they rarely get a chance to put into practice. We find each year that volunteers, particularly the young, are flocking in ever greater numbers.

As for the sick and infirm and disabled, why do they make the arduous journey? Why do Lourdes's sick pilgrims flock there? Partly, the answer lies in Lourdes's deserved reputation as a place of remarkable cures and miraculous recoveries. Over the past

140 years, there have been thousands of medically inexplicable cures recorded by the Lourdes Medical Directorate, although only 64 have been formally recognised by the Church as miracles.

Beyond this, though, Lourdes is a place that helps to make sense of pain and suffering. It also helps to make sense of religion. It is Christianity in action in its purest, most impressive, most life-changing

form. A number of people who have gone there as atheists or agnostics have been received into the Catholic Church as a result of their experiences. The sick and disabled are revered as the most precious of God's children, treated with a kindness and a generosity of spirit that makes them feel extraordinarily valued and worthwhile. Anyone in a wheelchair or on a stretcher enjoys absolute priority in Lourdes. "It is clearly a place where God is present," says Father Barry.

Seen and experienced in this light, Lourdes ceases to be a place of tacky shops and human misery, and instead becomes a place of shining goodness, idealism and joy. The shops, cafés, bars and hotels outside the walls of the shrine area — a vast sanctuary known as the *Domaine* — just fade away. They are there, but they are peripheral, unimportant. Inside the *Domaine* is everything that really matters, and in there, people behave quite differently from the way they tend to in normal, everyday life.

Though crowded throughout the pilgrimage season, which runs from Easter to the end of October, the *Domaine* is wondrously hushed and subdued. People gather quietly at the various churches, at the taps dispensing Lourdes's famous spring water and, most of all, at the grotto.

**I**t was in this area that the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a destitute and sickly little girl, Bernadette Soubirous, on 18 separate occasions between February and July 1858. Hymns and prayers in any one of a multitude of languages drift through the air like incense. Thousands of candles burn, night and day.

In a never-ending stream, even in the early hours of the morning, people queue in absolute silence to walk around the grotto's semi-circular rock wall. The rock itself, though, rough to the touch outside the grotto, is smooth as marble within, polished by the millions of hands that have signalled its surface over the past 140 years. Hundreds of people sit or kneel outside, deeply absorbed in thought and prayer. All that can be heard is the rushing water of the crystal-clear River Gave, which runs alongside.

Pilgrims wait patiently to enter the grotto or the nearby baths, where they immerse themselves in the spring water uncovered by Bernadette during one of the apparitions. But as soon as a sick or disabled person approaches in a wheelchair, the crowd part willingly and volunteer helpers usher that person to the very front with the kindest of smiles.

As I walked around with Shane, strangers approached me, squeezed my hands, and kissed my son's cheeks. Volunteers from the Arundel and Brighton pilgrimages were on hand night and day to help me in any way they could. My son's face began to shine with joy, and on our last night in Lourdes, he thanked me in his halting speech for having taken him there.

Afterwards, I talked at length with one person after another about what Lourdes meant to them, and was profoundly moved by each and every one's compassion and thoughtfulness.

For me, the most miraculous thing about Lourdes is the way the sick people and the helpers all get such a lift from being with each other," said Dr Kevin Kelly, a Surrey GP and leader of the group's medical team. "This place calls forth extraordinary love and affection."

Before his first visit, Dr Kelly confesses, he was not impressed by what he had heard about Lourdes. "I thought that it was a lot of hysteria," he said. Now he was on his eighteenth pilgrimage.

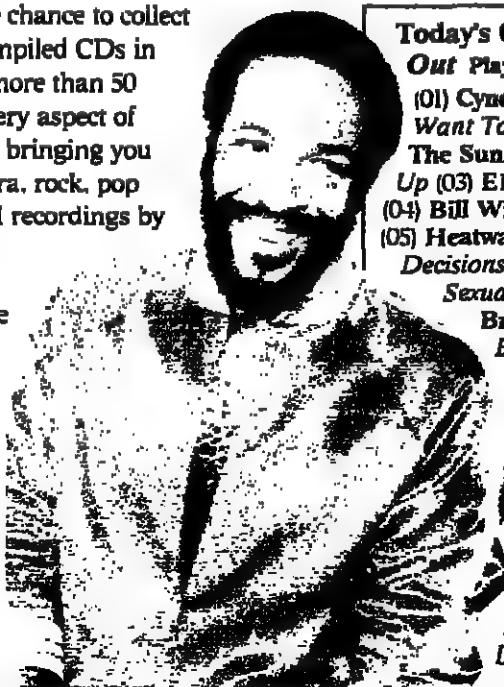
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# Murder and the king of the club kids

When Michael Alig told his friends that he had killed his flatmate, they did nothing. Jason Cowley reports

**T**he notorious New York nightclub promoter Michael Alig had an unrivalled flair for self-promotion. When, in March last year, he told close friends that he had murdered his lover and flatmate, Angel Melendez, they did nothing about it, not even when Angel's legless torso washed up two months later in a wooden box on the shores of Staten Island.

Alig, 31, was the self-styled "king of the club kids", a group of young, narcissistic nihilists who emerged in the mid-1980s to create a scene of unimaginable debauchery at Manhattan nightclubs. He is currently in the Manhattan Correctional Centre charged, together with another friend, known only as Freddie, with the murder of Angel. He has pleaded not guilty, but a documentary about him to be shown next week on Channel 4, *Party Monster*, features footage of him making one of numerous drug-addled confessions. "Angel," he says, his eyes bloodshot and distant, "was



Angel Melendez, left, wanted to be part of the scene, which included Alig dinner parties such as this one at the Bowery Bar. The feeling was that anything could happen and it often did

one of those copycats we hate, so we killed him. Yes, I killed Angel." He pauses, peers uncertainly at the camera, then adds: "Oh dear, I shouldn't say things like that." The confession was filmed by the English director Fenton Bailey, co-producer of *Party Monster*, who has known Alig since they worked together in the late 1980s at Danceteria nightclub and is fascinated by the cult of the club kids.

Friends of Alig were divided over his confessions, some suspecting that they were no more than a publicity stunt. Others suspected, though, that there was a gruesome truth in his story. One of his closest friends, a pretty, blonde dancer called Gitsie, had left her family in Miami to become a club kid after watching a film on cable television about their excesses. She was appalled yet moved by Michael's confession. "I couldn't believe he could do it," she says, "telling me what he'd done was the hardest thing in the world for him." As with others, Gitsie did not go to the police.

and self-abuse, scouring anyone who had what they pejoratively called "a normal life". It was as if, in their delusion and fervour, they felt they had journeyed beyond good and evil, entering a blurry, guiltless realm of "pure freedom", where even the murder of Angel, a drug dealer, was permissible.

Bailey says: "It was amazing that no one went to the police. These kids had no moral compass at all. At first, I think, they didn't believe the murder was true, that Michael was the killing kind; or perhaps that it was a Post-Modern prank and he would

host an "Angel returns" party. But the thing about Michael was that he was like a Peter Pan, creating his own reality." Born in South Bend, Indiana, in 1966, Michael Alig grew up in a typical suburban American family. His mother, Elke Alig, remembers her son as quiet and shy at school; his homosexuality became apparent after he moved to New York to attend college in the mid-1980s. He was enraptured by the city's vibrancy, its danger and possibility. His first job was as a bellboy at Danceteria. He progressed quickly and was soon working as a promoter for Peter Gatien, owner of fashionable clubs. Bailey says: "Michael

was paid to create a scene with his own sense of chaos, glamour and excitement." His notoriety spread after he organised a series of "out-law" parties at McDonald's in Times Square and on the subway. The feeling grew that anything could happen—and it frequently did. At Disco 2000, he introduced a "hot body" competition, whereby clubbers stripped and debased themselves. "I couldn't believe what people would do to themselves for a few dollars," says LaBoma, a former drag queen who used to compete the competitions.

**W**ith shaved eyebrows and a cropped goatee, pin an inch and a half long through his chin, James St James, a former New York "club kid", describes his 12-year friendship with Michael Alig, who was a lowly worker at Danceteria, a Manhattan nightclub, when St James first met him. Alig is now in a New York jail charged with murdering Angel Melendez. St James has just finished a 70,000-word account of his time with Alig and was interviewed, sipping a screwdriver in a poolside lounge at the Argyle Hotel in Hollywood, where he now lives.



Michael Alig and James St James, who says: "There's no getting around his charisma"

I started the "club kid" movement in about 1985. I had been running around with a *Village Voice* columnist for about a year or so, going to parties and dressing up, doing the whole club thing, wearing tutus and tiaras and flower-pots on our heads. When Michael Alig first moved to New York, he worked at Danceteria, clearing tables, but you could see that he was taking notes in his head. This was something that interested him, something he could use. He saw what we were doing, and he saw a way to turn it into something profitable for him. At first he was a cloying little monster who used to chase us around, inviting us to awful parties that nobody wanted to go to. Pretty soon he went from having awful parties at awful clubs to having good parties at good clubs, and we got roped in. In March of 1987, *New York* magazine put Michael and the club kids on

the cover, and after that there was no denying him. Michael is capable of monstrous acts of evil but there's no getting round his charisma. Just to watch him work is

amazing. He rises and falls to whatever level people approach him at. The club scene is mostly dizzy transvestites who can't string three words together, so it's rare to find someone with whom you can actually exchange ideas.

In about 1990, we started doing ketamine, a drug that we called Special K, used by vets as an animal tranquilliser. I was in a downward spiral and became deeply in debt and tried working as a prostitute in the meat-packing district for a month until the other "girls" kicked me out for bringing down the market rate. After that I left town and went to South Beach in Florida for about two years.

for free, but Angel wasn't like that. That's why it was so shocking that he would leave his drugs and money with Michael every night. Michael told me he had killed Angel in March of 1996, a couple of weeks after it had happened. I was at a club near Times Square doing Special K and I stumbled out and ended up at Michael's house. He said: "James, we have to talk. Let's make ourselves comfortable." He made tea and brought out scones, and he lined up nine bags of heroin and said: "Darling, have you noticed that somebody's missing?" I said I hadn't. We had a sip of tea and a few scones and a bag of heroin and he said: "Angel. We killed him and we chopped him up and we threw him in the river." I knew immediately that he was telling the truth.

I was more anaesthetised by the shock than the heroin. It wasn't until the next day that I woke up screaming. I went and did two or three grams of Special K and forgot who I was or where I was, and I did that for about three months. That was how I dealt with it in the beginning. Later, Michael and I would talk about it. I would shake him and make him tell the story over and over again in extreme detail. I would say: "When you chopped him up, what were you feeling? What was it like to saw the legs off? What kind of knife did you use?" He would say he'd watched so many Roger Corman movies that he had just put himself in one of them. And he was on so many drugs that he was able to block himself off completely from reality. But the truth is Michael was a monster from the get-go. It was only a matter of time before he imploded.

There was a point where it looked as if he was going to get away with it. Throughout the summer of 1996 I stayed with him and tried to understand it from his point of view. I said nothing to the press, though God knows we were all bombarded by them the whole time. There were people chasing us wherever we went, and I kept my mouth shut. The police obviously knew something had happened because reporters were calling them every day. They just didn't care. To them Angel was a drug-dealing gay immigrant; a piece of scum. He was also so despised by people on the scene that they took his murder as a minor thing. When I heard that the girlfriend of Peter Gatien (Disco 2000's owner) had

forage of Alig in prison. Looking thin and wan, his hair receding, he discusses the behaviour of the club kids, though not Angel, with camp playfulness. That his quest for sensation took him to the edge of madness appears to matter less to him than that he embarked on the quest. He expresses no remorse, only a kind of self-admiring wonder. "It isn't that he feels no remorse," Bailey disagrees. "It's just that he has difficulty expressing it. What happened to him was the inevitable result of his crazy lifestyle. He was riding a rollercoaster that was out of control." **Party Monster is on Monday on Channel 4 at 11.30pm**

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A black and white photograph of a traditional Japanese garden. In the foreground, a low, rustic stone wall runs across the frame. Behind the wall, a large, dark, leafy tree dominates the left side. To the right, a small, traditional Japanese building with a thatched roof is visible. The background is filled with more trees and foliage, creating a dense, natural setting.

Inspired by catamarans riding a majestic wave, Stephen Cox's spectacular granite sculpture *Yatra* now sits in the Dulwich Gallery garden, with his *Kauri* in the background

An expedition to the quarry at Mons Porphyry in the Eastern Mountains of Egypt inspired Cox profoundly, and led to a sequence of works utilizing this voluptuous yet deceptively hard material.

His love of porphyry is most movingly conveyed inside *Sopha's Mausoleum*. A less sensitive artist might easily have dismissed this mode of reverence within this powerful chamber. But by restricting himself to a few small canals, placed modestly round the circular floor, Cox succeeds in enhancing the somber, memorial aura.

It helped me to understand the spiritual impulse running through all Cox's work.

“A strong spiritual impulse is found in his sculpture.”

through the variety of styles and materials he has adopted, a consistent desire to reach beyond everyday experience towards a heightened consciousness gives his sculpture unexpected unity. I cannot imagine a contemporary sculptor more suited to the heart of Soane's building where silence takes on an eloquence of its own.

● **Stephen Carr is at Dublin Picture Gallery, College Rd, London SE21 (0181-693 5254) until Sept 28**

in Bloom's strange metallic, five-  
fingered, from the ceiling just  
the door, at *Awazars*, Entwistle's  
now. It spins or turns every now  
like a special prop from  
near. Jim Henson's line-up of  
cartoon figures shows "portraits"  
and amenable young men  
if on their way to the gym. This  
and painting drops smoothly  
flat surface, and yet Hasegawa  
light in a perpetual warp or  
questioning the extent to which  
might represent anything at  
Hasegawa's distorted photo-  
now faces elongated and extend-  
on the left. Objects are  
into the surface, to merge with  
in which pulls and distorts the

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

□ Stuart Cumberland's work shifts and changes with a light touch. For *Silent Things*, a show he shares with Phil Allen at the Approach, he has painted good but awkward paintings, and whittled apparently real pencils out of wood in order to provide a series of "under-important" thoughtless contributions. On the other side of the room, men's sledge cars look heavy, with much cardboard and painted to embellish the pretence. Here the boy's toy has been reworked, away a part almost more physical in reality than the initial model. Cumberland's still-life paintings, however, sit completely confident in their own contemporary halfway house.

**The Approach, 1st Floor, 47 Approach Road, London E2 (0181-933 3376), until Sunday**


□ Stephen Kloun's strange metallic, riveted globe hangs from the ceiling just inside the door, at *Awazars*. Entwistle's *show*, it spins or turns every now and then, like a "spatial" prop from *Bladerunner*. Jon Hasegawa's line-up of cut-out cartoon figures shows "portraits" of affable and amenable young men smiling as if on their way to the gym. This highly bland painting drops smoothly across the flat surface, and yet Hasegawa seems caught in a perpetual warp or groove, questioning the extent to which these people might represent anything at all. Paul Hasegawa's distorted photographs show faces elongated and extended by a trick of the lens. Objects are blended into the surface, to merge with human skin which pulls and distorts the outcome.

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strings stood throughout Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Raspy brass and characteristic winds are not new in this music, but there were plenty of revelations: this was the first performance of Jonathan Del Mar's cleaned-up version of the text, and the more noticeable corrections were very startling. Most of them came in the finale, when the Turkish March went with exhilarating brio. Instead, Gardiner gave the music movement real propulsion, but was less convincing in the Adagio, which lacked sympathy. Luba Orgonovska, Bernadette Fink, Gordon Grizz and Bryn Terfel made an excellent quartet of soloists.

JOHN ALLISON

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# Full Marx for laughter

Gorky called Nikolai Erdman "our new Gogol". His satirical comedy made the author so much to be read to the author to stop reading it aloud, "for my heart couldn't have stood the strain". But then Stalin slipped through the play, his apparatuses barked it, and though nobody knows his precise fate, Erdman went the way of Rabel, Schwarz and a generation of gifted dramatists. The robust and often hilarious production with which this year's Fringe makes its debut is a testament to the fact that the theatre is still alive.

Gogol's satirical influence is surely nowhere behind the tale of Senyov, the unemployed, Moscowite whose last hope, earning mega-roubles by learning to play the tuba, inevitably collapses. The world gets about that he proposes to kill himself, whereupon an eccentric cross-section of Russians turns up in his policy. But each asking him to leave behind a... (text continues)

After the play was slated for production in 1932, when Uncle Joe's massive rump was flattening the Soviet theatre, Erdman hoped to get away with as much as he did, and the scene in which he



THEATRE

play has sharp things to say about censorship, bureaucracy, corruption and the failure of socialism to bring ordinary people "a quiet life and a decent income". Its cheekiest and, in retrospect, most dangerous moments come when Conleth Hill's Senyov drunkenly phones the Kremlin to tell "the man at the top" he no longer believes in Marx but the funnier he is to Peter Grimes as the self-styled voice of the Soviet post-war workers.

Sons and mothers: Benedict Bates as Lucas and Linda Marlowe as Reb in *The Cub*

keeps trying and failing to shoot himself (I'll count to five, no ten, no 20) out-bour, he signs himself "35,000 posipens", earnestly explaining that this is his pen name. Grimes had in his stiches, but then so did Hill's Senyov, with his bawled face, crumpled shoulders and manic desperation. The scene in which he

anise McKnight's *The Cub* doesn't begin to do so, despite an opening in which a sinister, bested figure breaks into a kitchen, eats some pudding, threatens the householder with a knife - and is then revealed as her son. What then occurs is an incestuous encounter between Linda Marlowe as the half-unwilling

mum ("there are other kinds of love, Lucas, love of mankind") and her wild, wayward boy. But the complications that follow lack plausibility, depth, interest or, as far as I could see, point. By Traverse standards, a flimsy piece.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## CONCERT

## First night thriller

THE silence in the hall of *Spring* was a positive relief. After such a moving interpretation of Bartok's rarely heard but, balefully, inspired *Four Places*, Op. 12, and such a thrilling account of Boulez's *Notations IV*, an enthusiastically shimmering *Spring* would have been too much for the opening concert, sponsored by Scottish & Newcastle's *First Night*.

It was not a bad performance of *The Rite of Spring*. Pierre Boulez is surely incapable of delivering any such thing - and for the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, which will be performing the work no fewer than three times on its present tour of the top European festivals, including the BBC Proms, it was surely a technical revelation. But, at the end of an evening, the feeling was that Boulez had conducted it at least once too often. While his attention to details of rhythm and colour was as precise as ever, he seemed unable or unwilling to summon the energy required to invest it with the savagery commonly but not inappropriately associated with it.

GERALD LARNER

## FRINGE COMEDY

## Who's the joker?

NOT content with saturating the Fringe with comedy, the comedians are taking over the theatre. Irish stand-up Ed Byrne prefaces his solo show with *The Act* (Gilded Ballroom). Written with and co-starring Brendan Baras, *The Act* follows two comedians sharing a flat during the Fringe. The play kicks off like a tired lager, split and flatmate-scum sitcom, but as the pair's careers diverge it begins to examine the nature of comedy and comedians.

Burns is fascinating as the raucous Aussie agitator choosing between success and integrity, but Byrne is less convincing as the anodyne Perrier nominee Edward Byron. His characterisation takes on a disturbing slant when seen in tandem with his stand-up show, *Psychobabble*. In *The Act*, the fictional Edward Byron appears in an outsize suit doing "Kids" TV is all about drugs/women - I don't understand them! material. In *Psychobabble* the real Ed Byrne likewise appears in an outsize suit. One performance is an ironic attack on crowd-pleasing commercialism, the other is part of a heavyweight bid for Perrier eligibility. Go figure.

Alone, Byrne plays his audience beautifully, and his wry, confessional stand-up set is very funny. He applies Freud to his life, and uses his life experiences to rubbish psychoanalysis.

Oedipus, Jocasta and Co all get short shrift, and his segues into film and music are pleasantly evil.

So prolific are Stewart Lee and Richard Herring that they almost deserve an independent festival annex. Their double act, *This Morning with Richard and Judy* (Peasance), is a possessed chat show, complete with proper guests and piano accompaniment. Tickets are sold by auction, from 1p to £8, and occasionally reimbursed during a series of grotesque, money-grubbing competitions. The show is largely unscripted, but despite an early time slot, the audience is maintained in a state of almost perpetual hysteria. Lee and Herring have an electric complicity, and their urge to push comedy as far as possible has not been eased by the demon television.

Of the two it is Lee who makes the really experimental pitch. He is deliciously misanthropic; his tragedy is that the audience never quite keeps up with his intertextual contortions. Customers for *King Dong* vs *Moby Dick* (Peasance) are handed a copy of Melville's novel on arrival. Lee runs the hour like a sardonic seminar tutor, and an apparent jumble of often low-key material is teased into a surprisingly satisfying denouement.

Central to Herring's *Excavating Rita* (Peasance) is an assured coming-of-age comedy. Ian Snell is an obnoxious literary-minded 18-year-old who joins an archaeological dig. Love, death and boorish masculinity each affect his Becken-sodden mind, before he leaves for university, an only slightly changed man. The subtly shifting group dynamics are beautifully handled.

HETTIE JUDAH

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# What goes up may just stay up

Anatole Kaletsky says shares and sterling can defy gravity

What goes up must come down. This well known principle of terrestrial physics is often invoked by exasperated businessmen and central bankers praying for the end of an unwelcome currency trend, such as the recent advance of sterling. It is also a favourite of frustrated investors trying to predict the collapse of some great bull market on which they have missed out.

Accordingly, the phrase was on many lips in the City last Friday as two of the most powerful and misinterpreted financial trends of the decade — the great bull market on Wall Street and the recent surge of the pound — seemed suddenly to go into reverse.

Many of the financiers, policymakers and businessmen who had been wrongfooted by both these powerful financial moves must have spent the weekend in joyful contemplation of the laws of financial gravity as they watched the pound fall by ten pence and the Dow Jones industrial average tumble by 150 points on Friday night. But their relief was short-lived. By yesterday afternoon both the pound and the global stock markets seemed to forget about gravity.

Both seemed to hit a plateau, showing no inclination to continue their descent back to earth.

It is, of course, impossible to conclude much from a single day's trading in financial markets. But one lesson, which laymen often forget to their great cost, can be drawn:

there is no such thing as financial gravity; in these markets what goes up does not necessarily come down.

Experience, in fact, suggests that long-running trends in financial markets are much more likely to continue than to go into reverse.

It is therefore with caution and humility that anyone should defy the kind of powerful trends seen in the global stock market and the British foreign exchanges in the past year or two.

Even Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board and unquestionably the world's most powerful financier, was reminded of his impotence against financial momentum last December, when he warned that the bull market on Wall Street was driven by "irrational exuberance" and predicted that global share prices might soon go into reverse. Since his speech, shares have advanced by a further 25 per cent.

The intriguing question we face in Britain is whether the Bank of England will prove any more accurate than Mr Greenspan in its suggestion last Thursday that the upward trend in sterling is about to go into reverse.

My hunch, for what it is worth, is that Mr Greenspan may finally be vindicated, but the Bank, to the chagrin of British manufacturers and exporters, is likely to be proved wrong. The worldwide bull market in shares may be about to suffer a serious setback, but the powerful advance of sterling is not yet over and last week's sharp decline

Long-term trends are more likely to continue than to go into reverse

is more likely to create the conditions for another big upward thrust than to presage a return to the days of the cheap pound.

The reasons for expecting a big fall in share prices have been widely discussed by many market commentators for the past three years — plenty of analysts have, in fact, been predicting a crash from almost the day the bull market started in January 1995. Until recently, however, bearish factors such as very low dividends and high share valuations have been far outweighed by the excellent prospects for company profits, inflation and economic growth. But with the world economic recovery, maturing shares no longer seem as cheap as they clearly were in 1995 and 1996. In addition, investors seem to have gradually forgotten the fears of recession, inflation and financial crisis that have haunted them since the present phase of the bull market began.

Ironically, Mr Greenspan's own conversion two weeks ago to the view the bull market may, after all, be justified by "basic improvements in the long-term efficiency of our economy" has been one of the forces pushing sentiment on Wall Street across the invisible boundary between soundly based confidence and dangerous complacency.

For two years, stock markets have been happily climbing what traders call "the wall of worry". The danger now is that they are about to start sliding down "the slope of hope". When investors are worried, share prices move higher every time something happens to offer them reassurance or new hope. But when markets are over-optimistic, any disappointment can trigger a steep fall.

The conditions in the sterling exchanges are a mirror image of those on Wall Street. Fundamental economic conditions remain extremely bullish for the pound: the world's highest interest rates, rapid growth, a still-strong balance of payments and an independent central bank determined to prove its mettle. Yet almost all of the players in the foreign exchange market remain deeply sceptical. Politicians talk privately of seeing the pound down to DM2.50. The Bank might not go so far, but makes no secret of its desire for a weaker pound. Industrialists and investors describe the exchange rate as uncompetitive and overvalued. Yet Britain's trade remains in balance and many exporting companies remain profitable, albeit less so than they were a year ago.

Eventually the strong pound will probably hit exporters and may even cause a recession or a balance of payments crisis. But until there is clear evidence of such problems, the market is likely to stick to what it knows how to do best: it will climb a wall of worry and follow the trend. And in the case of sterling, the trend unfortunately still points up.

We are morbidly fascinated by grisly entertainment — but most of us couldn't cope with a nosebleed

# Peering round the door of the morgue

Libby Purves

ribs in 1989. The report never entered the public domain because nobody was ever brought to trial.

Mrs Phelps has waited five years to bring the case because she didn't want her other children to know the detail of their sister's death. She says: "This is something that's got to be done... we lost our precious pride and joy and then that woman writes a book and sits down on TV smiling as if she's done something big."

The case may fizzle out: the Phelps family live in a trailer and Patricia Cornwell is very rich. Even without that, the American court might well decide that novelists are chronic jackwags and can't be stopped from pinching bits of real life. Perhaps the defence will proudly argue that there was no borrowing, claiming that Ms Cornwell has just as depraved an imagination as any sadistic sex murderer and is therefore quite capable of making up disgusting mutilations all by herself.

But I am glad of the case, if only because it forces upon the rest of us the contrast between the glitz of the crime-thriller and the unglamorous misery of real murder. It also underlines how morbidly explicit books have become about physical cruelty. Our modish worries about films and videos tend to obscure the fact that the books got there first: whether posing as literature in the school of Will Self, or merely as light reading for the beach, authors have steadily pushed back the frontiers of acceptable indecency and gloried in it. "Powerful and harrowing," say the

jackets and reviewers complacently. "Not for the squeamish... the true sights, sounds and smells of the morgue."

Sometimes (notably on novels by our new peerless, Ruth Rendell) the hucksterish tour-guide promises to take us "inside the mind of a psychopath", as if that were generally accepted as a fun place to be. Then when fiction fails, there is always another book about Fred West, Dennis Nilsen, Jeffrey Dahmer or some other inadequate creep who

seek out second-hand horrors simply because we have gone suddenly soft in the past half-century, and we know it and are embarrassed.

Maybe all this stuff about Y-shaped incisions and glistening entrails is our way of reproving ourselves for having become the sort of people who not only can't write a chicken's neck, but panic if required to "draw" one. Remember that job? I saw my mother do it every Sunday morning with the aid of a large sherry; it must now be as arcane as well-dressing. Nor are most men any braver, go to any seaside pier where children fish and you will see white-faced Daddies wincing and whimpering as they try to disguise the fact that they have not the faintest idea how to gut a mackerel.

Maybe all the prevailing violence and machismo of popular culture appeals only because we have grown so wet in real life. It has been a rapid change: our parents and grandparents faced danger at the front and privation and improvisation at home. Fifty years on, the British way is to worry incessantly about our food, go to law for trauma and distress when we survive a disaster — or even witness one — to fret if our life expectancy drops from 78.3 years to 76.2, and need to be told nightly by TV Nanny to come in out of the hot sun after 35 perilous minutes. Our public swimming pools — once bracing — are heated to soup-like temperatures, and our houses sealed from winter air with such efficiency that dust allergies are the new

killed a lot of people. Here the sales campaign is invigorated by the fact that every squeal and scream really counts. Wow!

In blacker moments, I take this prevailing necrophilia as a sign of decadence deeper than Nero's amphitheatre saw, because at least the Romans turned up in person to sit on hard stone benches as the day's entertainment was eaten by lions. They did not expect the intimate details of fellow-humans' deaths to be brought direct to their sun-lounger.

But since the sun is shining, let us find a kinder explanation: maybe we

epidemic. We agonise endlessly in print and on confessional TV about such new-fangled forms of affliction as low self-esteem, shortage of sexual bliss, and (currently fashionable) the "pain" of having a baby of the gender you didn't happen to want.

I am sure the two things go together: an ever less realistic way of life and a hunger for depictions of danger and death and extreme hardship. I was in the BBC Television Centre canteen during Sir Ramphel Fienies's first famous polar walk, and my companion kept grumbling that these expeditions had got too easy with modern aids. He was quite put out when I reminded him that ten minutes earlier he had rejected the option of walking down to Shepherds Bush for lunch on the grounds that the pavement was "letally icy". It is the same with war: the wartime generation produced films and books about war which were restrained, understated, and focused more on human values and idealism than on bloody detail. Modern audiences — who panic at a nosebleed if it happens to be their nose — demand a steady diet of torn-off limbs and incinerated faces.

Or again, look around the lobby of your local multiscreen cinema. Crowds of shuffling, dough-faced adolescent boys in trainers are queuing to see an action movie full of cops running down killers or Marines plunging through sheets of blood. Meanwhile, box-office-leadies and screen commercials show them with increasingly desperate recruiting messages from the Armed Services. The ranks cannot be filled because the dough-faced teenagers either don't fancy the discipline or else fail the basic fitness test.

And no, I have not the faintest idea what the answer is. I just want to egghead historian of AD2997 to know that even at the time, some of us thought it was all a bit odd.

# Parliamentarian at bay

Magnus Linklater on a threat to deselect the man who asked the West Lothian question



It is hard to imagine six words more inappropriate to that great campaigner, Tam Dalyell, MP. "He can't say what he likes." They were uttered this weekend by the secretary of Mr Dalyell's constituency party in Linlithgow, and they signalled the start of a process which could result in his deselection. Mr Dalyell's unswerving opposition to devolution in Scotland, and his refusal to keep quiet on the subject have finally become too much for some local officials — they want him out. Thus, if events take their course, the 35-year parliamentary career of the most formidable backbencher in the present House of Commons may be nearing its end. Mr Dalyell himself concedes as much. "There is every chance I will be deselected," he says. "I regard it as a fact of life. People who have very strong views in politics, which are not shared, have to face the consequences."

But has it really come to this? That an MP with strong and undeviating views on one of the great constitutional issues of the day can be voted out by a local clique because they happen not to accord with government policy? A House of Commons without Tam Dalyell seems inconceivable. This, after all, is not just any backbencher. This is the man who torpedoed Margaret Thatcher over the *Belgrano*, campaigned relentlessly over the Westland affair, predicted the ecological disasters of the Gulf War, sought doggedly to expose the truth about Lockerbie, and has got up the noses of more Tory ministers in the course of a fearless career than the entire present Cabinet.

One might have imagined that his

achievements on behalf of his party, together with a reputation for unimpeachable integrity, and an ability, as an admirer put it, "to smell a really good rat" would summon the Labour leadership to his defence. After all, the National Executive has not hesitated to intervene in local constituency affairs (witness Paisley and the Gordon McMaster affair).

Tony Blair has made it clear that there is no gagging order on MPs who wish to express individual points of view, and must surely therefore defend to the hilt Mr Dalyell's right to speak out. So far, however, the silence from on high has been deafening. There have been no robust offers of support from the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, no honeyed words from the Minister

without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson. Of course Mr Dalyell, who rarely fails to tread on a protruding foot if he comes across one, has not helped his cause by attacking Mr Mandelson personally. He described the minister's view that devolution would strengthen Scotland's role in the UK as follows: "If Peter Mandelson is going to play a leading role in the devolution campaign, then he should not say such silly things." This remark was not best calculated to win the minister's unstinting support.

And yet the Dalyell cause is surely an ideal one for the party to embrace. By standing up for his right to disagree, it would demonstrate at a stroke that it is the party of the individual, rather than the thought police. It would show to the public at

large that it is confident enough to allow principled dissent, however inconvenient, and it would, in backing Mr Dalyell, be supporting a noble cause — he has, after all, acquired the status by now of National Treasure.

The Linlithgow party will argue that it cannot tolerate an MP who threatens to undermine its campaign to secure a "yes, yes" vote in the forthcoming referendum. Some of its members claim that Mr Dalyell has gone back on his word not to speak out against devolution and have come as close as they can to accusing him of desert. That suggestion, of course, has been like a red rag to the Dalyell bull. He says that at his selection conference two years ago he undertook to confine his objections to

discussions in Conferences committees on any forthcoming Scotland Act, and that he would not form a Labour "Vote No" campaign — as he did with Robin Cook in 1979. But that undertaking was given before he learnt that the referendum would be held only on a White Paper, thus preempting the debate of a referendum in May, he claims. Mr Blair promised that the Bill would precede the referendum.

The White Paper changed all that. He has therefore let it be known that he will speak up if asked. Today he goes to talk to the computer firm Hewlett Packard. He has agreed to take part in a forthcoming debate with pro-devolutionists. In his own words, it is a case of "have speech, will travel". This all seems thoroughly healthy. If the debate on a Scottish parliament is to be a real, rather than a cosmetic, exercise, then it needs intelligent and thought-provoking discussions of the kind Mr Dalyell can guarantee. The party that feels it cannot tolerate this level of argument diminishes itself as much as it does the principle of free expression.

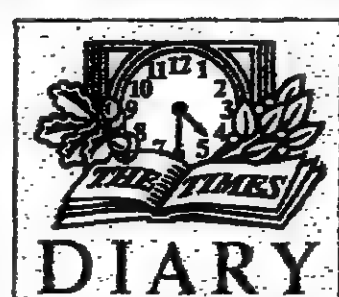
Who, after all, is the local party organisation representing anyway? No, I would guess, the constituents themselves. Mr Dalyell's views are not exactly new. Indeed, it is nearly two decades since he first propounded the West Lothian question — the most famous issue in the whole "devolution" debate. At each subsequent election the voters of the two constituencies he has represented — West Lothian and Linlithgow — have returned him with thumping majorities. The fact is that apart from his national reputation, he also happens to be an able, hard-working and extremely popular constituency MP. There is no mechanism in such matters for taking the views of the ordinary voter into consideration. But I have a shrewd idea whom they would support if offered the chance.

So perhaps the local party should go back to its grass roots and think again. After all, it would be ironic if the answer to the West Lothian Question were finally given — by sacking the man who first asked it.

# Taxing times

ONE week after the Government announced plans to crack down on car-tax dodgers, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, is driving round town in an untaxed car. Mandelson has an L-reg dark green Rover for his own personal use, which he bought in his Hartlepool constituency. The tax disc displayed in the front window expired at the end of July.

Mandelson is naturally a busy man, sweeping up in the absence of the Prime Minister. Just last week, however, Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, stood guard over the crushing of a white Ford Sierra to show what would happen to untaxed cars in future. "Honest motorists are fed up with carrying the bill for the hard core who continually evade paying their



road tax," she said. From August 18, untaxed cars such as Mandelson's will be clamped, towed, sold or crushed in order to recoup the £175 million lost to the Treasury by dodgers.

Over at the Minister without Car Tax's Downing Street office, his assistant, Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, said: "If it has expired, I'm sure it will be renewed immediately."

The next time Mandelson steps into his car, however, he should remind himself of the posters which his Government will be pasting up across the land. They show a crushed car with the words: "Do you feel lucky, Dodger?"

**Quiet guns**  
DESPITE the recent shooting boom, since the discovery of the

"Grouse Moor babes", today promises to be a quiet Glorious Twelfth. An early spring caused the grouse to breed too soon and subsequent bad weather has seen off many of the young.

"Almost no one will be shooting tomorrow," said a despondent British Field Sports Society press officer. "The dreadful weather is the culprit." Over at the British Association for Shooting and Conservation the guns were still firmly in their cases. "It's not only the weather, but a tick," said a spokesman. "It lives on sheep and is transmitting the louping-ill virus to the grouse chicks."

Gerald Turton, however, father of "grouse-babes" Natasha and Topsy Turton, and owner of a moor at Roxby, North Yorkshire, is circumspect about the news. "We have this debate every year. I think it is likely that there will be some late broods."

**Clocking off**

WHEN John Major became Prime Minister, he ordered all ticking and chiming clocks to be removed from his private quarters on the top floor of No 10. This insight into the Major mind comes in a piece in the latest Ministry of Defence newsletter, *Focus*, by Clive Osborne, who

firm A.A. Osborne & Son (Est. 1615) is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all of Whitehall's clocks. It fits in with the other points we have had to Major's obsessions: his fear of going grey, his fanatical personal grooming.

"Mr Major didn't like the sound of clocks striking, so had no mechanical pieces in his private flat," says Osborne. "With the new happy they've gone back again."

South Africa's film industry is preparing for the arrival of the



"I'm concerned that no one sneezes on this clock"

crew of *Mambo*, a film about elephants to be produced by *Dod Fayed*. Filming will begin soon at Shamwari Game Reserve, in South Africa's Eastern Cape. It is hoped that the entire \$60 million cost of the film will be stamped up from *Al Fayed* offers because it touches on the evils of landmines, a special interest of his friend Diana, Princess of Wales.

**Flow blow**

FLASH floods in east Devon have struck the home of Angela Browning, Conservative MP for Tiverton and Honiton and member of the Shadow frontbench education team. On Thursday night, when Mrs Browning heard the rush of water into her house, she came to the top of her stairs and shone a torch into the power-cut gloom. There, floating by the banister, were three volumes of the *Dearing Report on Higher Education*.

"I was hoping to read it in the recess," says Mrs Browning, who has had to order another copy. "Lots of my personal things have gone and the insurance company are going to have to put us up for several weeks before the house is fit to live in."

Not that Mrs Browning and the folk of east Devon are quitters.

"There is a good wartime spirit down here," she says.

**Wild boys**

WITH the Ashes secured, the Australian cricket team opted for a low-key celebration in Nottingham on Sunday night, in contrast with the fiery affair which followed their success at Headingley.

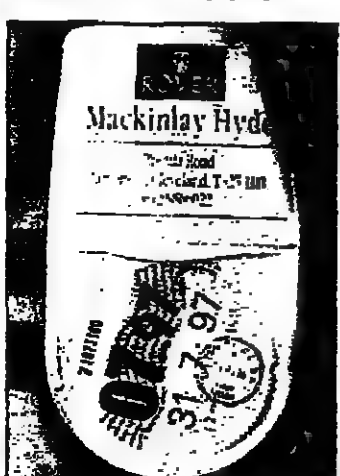
On that occasion, the Australian captain Mark Taylor and his boys were joined at the bar of the Holiday Inn, Leeds, by fellow visiting Antipodeans, the Canberra Raiders rugby league team.

The free-flowing beer and testosterone led to primitive contests of brute strength and scrumming, bizarre drinking competitions and impromptu displays of topless wrestling. At one point Taylor was crashed tackled by several playful Raiders, turned upside down and shaken so violently he was moved to retreat from the bar and escape with his wife for supper.

There was some boisterous good humour in the celebrations, but no complaints, said the hotel's deputy manager, Gordon Dennis. "If anything, the other guests were amused by the Australians."



Mandelson and his expired car tax disc: send for the crusher



DESPITE the recent shooting boom, since the discovery of the

"I'm concerned that no one sneezes on this clock"

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## A BALANCE OF RIGHTS

The register should be a tripwire, not a branding-iron.

The proposed national register of sex offenders could make a contribution to preventing some sexual offences. But, as the Home Office Minister Alan Michael has wisely made clear, its influence for good or ill should not be overstated. The horrific nature of many sexual crimes has made it difficult to conduct a rational debate. Arguments about probabilities and principles inevitably sound unfeeling to those whose families have been devastated. Civil libertarians, probation officers and parents should all recognise that the register is a tool of crime prevention, not an engine of retribution. It is meant to be a tripwire, not a branding-iron.

No register of sex offenders can hope to be comprehensive. It will be years before any register comes close. Inclusion on the register is very far from being a guarantee that an individual will not reoffend. Nevertheless, the register can go some way to providing practical reassurance. By providing local police and schoolteachers with information that will make it more difficult for the compulsive paedophile to insinuate himself into the company of children, a measure of protection, albeit limited, is provided. Local agencies will be encouraged to review how to limit the risk to the vulnerable.

Libertarians oppose the plan on principled grounds. Some libertarian objections still require an answer. Why should a crime which only merits a caution be sufficient to ensure inclusion on the register? Why should gross indecency, the committing of acts in public which are better restricted to the bedroom, be bracketed with offences which do not involve consent? There are other objections, worth rehearsing, to which an answer can be offered. Why should one group of offenders continue to bear a stigma and endure new restraints, after they have served their sentence, simply because of the nature of their crime? Why not warn a community if a repeat burglar is to be released in their midst, or require a persistent pickpocket to register his movements with the police? The argument has some moral force, but ignores the practical

evidence of paedophile conduct. Most criminal activity is committed by young males, and with age comes, if not penitence, then at least more settled habits. Paedophile behaviour tends, however, to be different. It is often compulsive and obsessive, closer to an addiction than most crime, which is opportunistic. Social pressure and moral restraint are often flimsy safeguards against behaviour which the paedophile himself may, on occasion, abhor but often cannot control. The extra professional vigilance and restriction on liberty which the register would create can be justified by the inability of many paedophiles to police their desires or make genuinely free choices. But it must not be forgotten that exceptions are being made and freedoms curtailed. In such circumstances the right to appeal against inclusion, and to review if there is reason to believe a change is appropriate, has to be rigorously upheld.

There are other objections to the register, less worthy of weighing by ministers. Elements in the Probation Service and police will argue that this new responsibility requires new resources. They should recognise that a preventive measure like the register should save the authorities time and money, by decreasing the number of offences committed, and be grateful for the generous funding they still enjoy.

Some parents are frustrated that information on the register will be restricted to professionals and they will be denied access to the identities of potential offenders in their community. Such fears are understandable, particularly from those whose children have suffered the loss of innocence, or worse. It would, however, be an invitation to lynch law to broadcast the names of potential offenders indiscriminately. There has to be room for individuals to reform if they can, although penitence should be tempered with vigilance. In operating this register it is hugely difficult to strike the right balance between protecting children, and liberties, but the Government seems to have chosen a properly modest, and moderate, position.

## DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

The torrid politics behind Asia's turbulent currencies

A stiff course of horse-training lies ahead for Asia's younger tigers. Since Thailand was driven to let the baht float — or, more accurately, sink — last month, greater realism has abruptly begun to temper the almost physical faith of international investors in the management of the region's economies. Almost every Asian stock market and currency has been touched by the contagion of sharply diminished confidence.

The initial reaction of Asian leaders, led by Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, was to throw a tantrum about the foreign "rogues, robbers and brigands" conspiring to deprive Asia of its aura of soaring success. Asian foreign ministers even issued a statement condemning currency speculators for destabilising their currencies for their own "self-serving purposes". This display of political arrogance and economic illiteracy merely sharpened scepticism. And now that the Thai Government, which has been forced to come clean about its affairs since it applied to the International Monetary Fund for a \$15 billion rescue package, has revealed the scale of the mess in its financial sector, the rhetoric has become somewhat more sober.

The run on Asian currencies has been triggered by some bad luck, but a lot of bad management. The bad luck was the rapid rise in the dollar, to which most Asian currencies have been rigidly and unwisely pegged. The bad management has not been limited to these governments' reluctance to listen to IMF advice to take remedial action by loosening their links to the dollar, tightening budgets and curbing speculation in Asia's saturated property markets.

The trouble is not only that after ten years of annual growth of 8 per cent and up, Asian governments seem to have forgotten how to use the brakes when the engine overheats. They have been culpably reluctant to tackle

the evils of crony capitalism, insider dealing and lax financial regulation. One reason is that far too many Asian politicians are in the money-spinning game up to their Rolex.

No country, Madeleine Albright told last month's Asian summit, can run a world-class economy "without a properly regulated financial services sector". This lack, acute in Thailand, is common to most other Asian economic tigers and is directly linked to the dark side of state intervention — an interplay between politics and money so intimate that in Indonesia, for example, "informal" expenses such as licence-buying and straight bribes account for up to 15 per cent of the capital costs of new investment.

Politicians routinely buy votes and make back the money, with interest, in office. Last week, when the Government finally let 58 of the country's 91 suspect financial institutions go to the wall, it revealed that it had already spent nearly \$10 billion propping them up. Among their biggest shareholders, the Government admits, are a lot of "familiar names". Action last January, when the Thai property bubble began to burst, would probably have averted today's crisis; but that would have been uncomfortable soon after the ruling coalition had spent £600 million on voters in last November's parliamentary elections.

A new constitution for Thailand could start to curb these abuses. Most of its neighbours also need to improve their political accountability. For a decade at least, global risk analysts have tended to shrug off pertinent questions about rigged property markets, dodgy financial practices and unhealthy close links between politics and business with soothing murmurs about the "sound fundamentals" of Asia's boom economies. They may take a sharper look after this. For Asians, that is nothing but good news.

## CREATURES SMALL AND GREAT

Modern man is fascinated by once-and-future species

Should Steven Spielberg be digging for inspiration, the Australian Outback would provide a fertile site. In the remote north-western regions of Queensland, Professor Mike Archer has unearthed the remains of vast and voracious prehistoric beasts, among them the "Pangaroon", a razor-incised ancestor of our mild-mannered Skippy, and an arboreal crocodile which lurked lethally in trees. Meanwhile, near Alice Springs, the elephantine skeleton of an ancient bird 12 feet tall is just the latest archaeological sensation and an incubus for suburban bird-tables.

We are fascinated by our Brobdingnagian forebears. That which could dwarf or devour us has a mesmerising power. In London's Natural History Museum, more visitors gather to gaze at the dinosaurs than at any other exhibit. Reconstructed skeletons and life-size models of prehistoric monsters represent a journey through time and space as evocative as any intergalactic voyage.

Jonathan Swift understood this allure. But he was as interested in Liliputian life as he was in the giant's world. Today it is in the microcosmos that many of the most inspiring discoveries are made. The dedication of scientists, devoting years of their lives to

intricate study in specialised fields, combines with technological advances to bring to public attention the forgotten and fabulous creatures that have made their homes in the remotest niches of the natural world.

The film *Microcosmos* documents a day in the grass-roots of a Pyrenean meadow. It unfolds a world of wonder. Few will forget such sequences as that of a creature, more bizarre than any sci-fi spook, rising slowly from glossy waters, towering stilted on needle legs. The setting sun burnishes a freakishly antennae head. And it is only when this unearthly apparition suddenly spreads its wings with a familiar whine, that audiences recognise it as a mosquito.

For those prepared to search, the familiar world is crammed with wonders, from the ultraviolet iridescence on a starling's breast to magnetic particles in the abdomens of bees which aid navigation. Such details bring fresh awe at the beauty, complexity and ingenuity of nature. Beyond the reach of the naked eye new marvels are unveiled: worms which feed on frozen methane in Pacific depths; bacteria which survive submerged in the geological strata. The search for exotic species does not lie simply in the past. It continues into the future.

## British policy in Northern Ireland

From Mr William Bell

Sir, Michael Gove ("Between a rock and a hard place", August 7) is wrong to argue that the Northern Ireland policy of successive British Governments has been to bring two irreconcilable parties together through negotiations which will then produce some common ground by which a settlement will be reached.

In reality, British Government policy has been to remove Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom, moving at a pace determined by the relative political strength of the Unionist majority at any given time. What else was the Sunningdale agreement of 1973, which allowed for the establishment of a Council of Ireland, giving the Republic of Ireland a say in the affairs of a part of sovereign UK territory? Why else does the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985 allow for a Maryfield secretariat, staffed by Southern civil servants, to operate in Belfast and service the consultative role given to the Irish Government in Northern Ireland's affairs?

The proposed all-party talks scheduled for September are not the main game in town: that is being enacted in the current negotiations between the British Government and Sinn Féin/IRA. The Unionist community, as recent history suggests, should be wary of present government policy, lest they too find themselves between a rock and a hard place.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM BELL,  
16 Carnarvon Park,  
Ballymena, Co Antrim.  
August 8.

From Mr H. Douglas Miller

Sir, Michael Gove's article on the futility of Ulster peace negotiations, however realistic, fails to suggest a constructive answer to the perennial Irish problem.

More cosmetic tinkering with an internal settlement for Northern Ireland does not address the overall Irish dimension and will therefore permanently solve nothing. Indeed Gerry Adams has reaffirmed yet again, in talks with Mo Mowlam (report, August 7) that Sinn Féin's first demand in the forthcoming multi-party talks would be a united Ireland. If reunification is ever to be attractive to the North, Dublin simply must produce a new, liberal constitution for the 21st century, encompassing a Bill of Rights and all the guarantees and concessions which Unionists could reasonably expect, including dual nationality. If such were the case, Britain could withdraw with dignity and a clear conscience and honour would be satisfied on all sides.

So, the onus remains where it has always lain, on the Republic. Dublin should act immediately. Mary Robinson could, on her retirement next month, use her talents as a constitutional lawyer to chair an ad hoc constitutional commission. It is not too late, even now, for the year 2000 to be the target date for an Irish New Deal.

Yours faithfully,  
H. DOUGLAS MILLER,  
The Laurels, Berks Hill,  
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.  
August 10.

## Tory appeal

From Mr Michael J. Gibbons

Sir, The high and dry tone of Sir Julian Critchley (letter, August 6) suggests that at least one Tory has not yet understood why the Conservatives lost the last general election.

Politics should be an appropriate balance of seriousness and fun. William Hague is suitably serious at Prime Minister's Questions where he has scored several successes — notably over the Lord Simon affair.

Equally, his personalised baseball cap and his ride on a water chute in Cornwall which, after all, is a major area of leisure and recreation, emphasises in a light-hearted way the serious need of the Conservatives to appeal to a broad sector of society.

Those activists who heard Mr Hague's speech at the conclusion of his Cornish tour will know that in our leader we have someone who combines the best of his two predecessors — a passion of purpose and a naturalness with people. In time this will be recognised and be welcomed throughout the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. GIBBONS,  
36 Carlew Street, Truro, Cornwall.  
August 6.

From Mr James Reeve

Sir, At least Mr Hague does not appear to wear his baseball cap back-to-front.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES REEVE,  
46c Montpellier Spa Road,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

## Cutting back sharply

From Mr Peter Hungerford-Welch

Sir, A notice in a local DIY store, informing customers that the store would no longer stock a particular model of lawnmower, made for alarming reading. Apparently, the mower was "de-ranked".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HUNGERFORD-WELCH,  
22 Oakden Road,  
Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Brownfield sites can be made viable

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir, It will be difficult to meet more of our housing need in towns and cities rather than on greenfield sites (letters, August 5). To do the job well we will need to increase investment to develop difficult urban sites, renew utilities, provide better welfare services and cater for all types of housing need.

Recent regeneration successes, some involving this trust, have shown this can be done but it will require a new range of incentives. Why not create funds for such work by re-using some of the savings from the gradual phasing-out of Miras, and by a modest levy on greenfield housing development? Why not make conversion and refurbishment more attractive through a reduction in VAT?

Even with these measures, a substantial amount of greenfield development will still need to occur, but the balance of development advantage would be tilted towards greater efforts to provide housing in a way that actually revitalises and improves our towns and cities.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL GWILLIAM,  
Director,  
Civic Trust,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,  
August 6.

### Gap year is invaluable

From the Director of Gap Activity Projects (GAP) and others

Sir, Employers and universities value students who have had a broad range of experiences. The gap year (letters, August 11) provides such experience and in particular widens international awareness.

We recognise the financial pressures on students from the proposed changes in the funding of higher education. However, it would be a great shame if the long-term benefits for individuals and societies at large were lost. We hope students will not feel forced to give up the unique opportunity which the gap year provides.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CORNELL,  
Director, Gap Activity Projects,  
RICHARD BROWN,  
Director, Council for Industry  
and Higher Education,  
ROLY COCKMAN,  
Chief Executive, Association of  
Graduate Recruiters,  
GAP House,  
44 Queen's Road,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
August 11.

### Operating a retractor

From Professor J. Gareth Jones

Sir, I am sure that many people who work in operating theatres were both amused, then depressed, about the outburst which followed recent reports of a teenager on work experience who was apparently allowed to hold a retractor during surgery (letters, August 5). Most doctors will recall the sheer tedium and lack of skill needed to hold retractors during their medical training.

A quite different order of skill and excitement is to be found in anaesthesia. My first work experience in the operating theatre was in Cardiff in 1945 when at the age of nine I was instructed by my father how to give open ether to anaesthetised patients with fractured limbs. This anaesthetic, chosen for its safety in unskilled hands, has now been largely abandoned because of its explosive properties.

A few years later, while on holiday in a remote part of Wales, my father showed me how to use model aeroplane fuel, based on ether, to anaesthetise a cat to remove a fishhook from its mouth.

While these experiences are illegal, and neither influenced my subsequent choice of career as an anaesthetist, they were useful talking points at an interview in the 1960s when I was promoted from chest physician to a

From Mr David Crease

Sir, If our land is so precious a resource — and it is — then why are architects so often accused of "town cramming" when proposing to make economical use of it?

Planning committees rightly wish to encourage new development in existing built-up areas, and use the green fields only as a last resort. But in giving with one hand the necessary permission to develop land, they snatch away with the other the liberty of the architect to put it to the best use. All too often a design that meets all the requirements, statutory and otherwise, for civilised life in marketable or affordable homes is refused permission on the subjective ground of "overdevelopment".

There is no escaping the arithmetic. If planning committees insist on halving the number of homes to the acre we shall use up twice as many acres. There is much argument about the forecasts for household formation and population growth. But there can be no argument about the effect of housing density on the equation.

I am, Sir, yours etc,  
DAVID CREASE (architect),  
Deer Park, Scampston,  
Malton, North Yorkshire,  
August 5.

From Mrs Lavinia Maclean-Bristol

Sir, If every school-leaver intending to take a gap year could be encouraged to spend some of those 12 months as a volunteer, by the Government waiving the first year's £1,000 fee, the spirit of volunteering in our youth would be heightened and their public spirit rewarded.

Each gap-year student should be encouraged to volunteer for a minimum of six months, and attached to a recognised volunteering organisation, with a certificate at the end as proof that the participant had honoured the agreement. This should be seen as part of a structured year between school and university.

The added maturity and determination, and indeed compassion, shown during this period would pay dividends when the gap-year student attended university. Education, after all, should surely include looking beyond personal wishes and an element of selflessness.

Yours faithfully,  
LAVINIA MACLEAN-BRISTOL  
(Director), Project Trust,  
The Hebridean Centre,  
Isle of Coll, Argyllshire,  
August 11.

new post of lecturer in anaesthesia without any previous experience of anaesthetising patients. That specialisation came later. Such an appointment would be a very unlikely event in the 1990s.

Yours faithfully,  
J. GARETH JONES  
(Professor of Anaesthesia),  
University of Cambridge  
Clinical School,  
Department of Anaesthesia,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital,  
Hills Road, Cambridge,  
August 5.

From Dr Robert M. Bruce-Chwatt

Sir, The extraordinary decision to suspend the senior surgeon who reportedly allowed the 16-year-old to hold a retractor brings an apt reminder of the definition of a junior surgical houseman or a senior medical student "assisting" at an operation, as quoted by a senior consultant at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead: respectively, someone or something asleep on the other end of a retractor.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT M. BRUCE-CHWATT  
(Royal Free Hospital School  
of Medicine, 1970-75),  
York Lodge,  
1 York Road, Richmond, Surrey,  
August 5.

Commonwealth. The Labour Party, too, would do well to bear this in mind.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN PORTER,  
Keele University,  
Department of Politics,  
Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG,  
August 6.

From the Executive Director of Article 19

Sir, "News management" to obscure political embarrassment is one thing, vote rigging quite another (leading article, "Chinese whispers", and letter, August 6).

Did the British Government collude with the Beijing administration to deprive millions of Hong Kong citizens of democratic rights at an early date? If so, should not the right of the people concerned to know this override any Official Secrets Act?

This is the discussion we should be having, at the same time as deciding the political and economic measures which should be adopted to ensure that freedom of expression, already being eroded in Hong Kong, is restored, and extended to the rest of China.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES D'SOUZA,  
Executive Director, Article 19,  
Lancaster House,  
33 Islington High Street, N1,  
August 6.

## Stop these foolish motorcycle articles

From Professor R. Michael Pittilo

Sir, I am enjoying your features on motorcycling and the increased emphasis being given to two-wheeled transport in your pages ("Car 97", "Motorcycling month", August 1 and 9). Motorcycles can be safe, environmentally friendly, economical and efficient forms of transport, provided that they are ridden skilfully.

Recently, in the process of selecting a new motorcycle for commuting and touring, I have had occasion to read widely across the popular motorcycling press. I have been dismayed to see many articles explaining how to perform stunts as well as encouraging riding techniques that, if attempted on the public highway, are illegal and extremely dangerous both to the rider and other road users.

The skills required to make safe and rapid progress on the public highways are very different to those needed by the grand prix racer; only a few have the aptitude and ability to succeed on the racetrack. Organisations such as the Institute of Advanced Motorists can advise on training and enable a rider to have his or her road skills assessed by an examiner with a Class One certificate and traffic-patrol riding experience.

Meanwhile, I hope that many of your readers may be tempted to either take up or return to motorcycling, in experience both the pleasures and exhilaration that it offers.

Yours faithfully,  
R. MICHAEL PITTILO,  
Woodbury, 37 Park Green,  
Great Bookham, Surrey,  
August 10.

### Road-tax dodgers

From Mr Philip Le Brocq

Sir, Road-tax dodgers may well soon risk having their cars crushed for scrap in Britain (report, August 6), but we in Jersey have already solved the problem without resorting to such crunching extremes.

On January 1, 1994, Jersey abolished the labour-intensive annual £22.50 car tax. By happy coincidence, the tax per gallon on fuel was increased by 11p to £1.40.

We now display an annual insurance disc with valid date and insurance details instead, issued by insurance companies, both local and on the mainland.

No longer do we have to worry about remembering yearly tax as well as an insurance payment. Should we crash and even our 40mph island-wide speed limit is not faultless, exchange of insurance details is easy. The police can see at a glance if a car is not insured — even more important than if it is not taxed — and the gas-guzzling car-owners pay for what they use.

This is a very fair system, which saves Jersey's Registration Department's costs and time, and therefore also saves taxpayers' money.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP LE BROCC,  
The Cottage, Le Bourg,  
La Grande Route de la Côte,  
St Clement, Jersey, CI,  
August 7.

From Mr R. G. Maling

Sir, Following the announcement of the Government's campaign against road-tax evaders (and the dire consequences) based on a yearly loss of £175 million, may we next expect to see TV detector vans equipped with TV set crushers as TV licence-fee evasion appears to be running at a similar loss?

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. MALING,  
Windfall,  
11 Chalkshire Road, Butlers Cross,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,  
August 5.

### School food

From Mr Peter Kottler

Sir, Guy Walters ("Damp toast, gloom and Rupert's cafeteria", August 8; see also letter, August 10) was lucky in his Eton diet.

I was at school at St Edmund's, Ware, in the 1950s. The food there was so awful, and consumption obligatory, that I devised a detachable polythene bag, sewn into my jacket pocket, that could be emptied into the school dog's dish later.

Puckeridge, the nearest haven for a smoke, did not boast a McDonald's (which hadn't been invented then) but only a transport café, without which I would have starved.

The school dog was devoted to me.

Yours fastidiously,  
PETER KOTTLER,  
Kantstrasse 2,  
04275 Leipzig, Germany,  
August 10.

### Buying British

From Mr Richard Whitehead

Sir, My companion at lunch recently had a bottle of Cobra lager, imported from India, which cost £2.50. I had a bottle of English water only slightly larger. It cost £2.95. What is going on?

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. WHITEHEAD,  
7 Ruvigny Mansions,  
The Embankment, Putney, SW15,  
August 11.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



## Noddy's creator is respectable again

**BY KATHRYN KNIGHT**

ENID BLYTON'S place in history was sealed yesterday when the centenary of her birth was marked by the unveiling of an English Heritage blue plaque at the house where she wrote her first book.

Her daughter Gillian Baverstock unveiled the plaque at the house in Surbiton, southwest London, where her mother wrote her first book, *Child Whispers*. Despite 500 rejections by publishers, she went on to produce more than 700 children's books before her death, aged 71, in 1968.

### Enid Blyton: an output of 10,000 words a day

Yesterday Mrs Baverstock confessed that her mother had often tired of her best-loved characters and churned out her books only because of pressure from her publishers. "She was not excited by writing some of them."

Bylton's huge output — she could write a book a week, routinely typing 10,000 words a day — led some to think she employed a team of ghost-writers and earned her the nickname "sausage machine".

In the past few years, her work has been accused of racism, sexism and snobbery. It was banned by some "politically correct" councils and some characters, including the goliwig in Noddy, were removed or altered. But more recently her books have enjoyed a renaissance and sell around 8.5 million copies a year worldwide.

Now many of her characters are likely to be brought sharply up to date after the copyright to her books was sold to the co-owners of the Trocadero entertainment complex in Central London.

More traditionally, on September 7, the Royal Mail will release a set of five commemorative stamps.

# The Sovereign's Parade at the RMA Sandhurst

**FIELD MARSHAL Lord Bramall** represented the Queen at The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst last Friday.

The following have been granted commissions in the Regiments and Corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 963. The Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer P D L Rennie and the Queen's Medal by Officer Cadet D M Wilkins:

M B Adams, Kings, John Hampden GS, High Wycombe; E L Ainsworth, RLC, Llanerworth School, Leighton, Dorset; A Allison,

AGC, Delbert; P A Ashby  
 ASCTO (SPS), S Peters School  
 Solihull; A C Anderson, LI  
 Halliwell School; T E Ash, REME,  
 Fullbrook House CHS, Macclesfield  
 J M Bacon, Int Corps, Clarendon  
 Farm-Croft School; P R Ballard  
 REME, Wydlife Coll; R S A  
 Barnhorst, Coldm Gds, Eton Coll; P  
 M K Beaumont, RLC, Gosfield  
 School; E N J Bennet, RLC  
 Wandlyck School; P G Beresford  
 Jones, RGR, Charnhouse School  
 A G Bidolph, KRH, Eton Coll; D  
 P Binlie, REME, Hookegate CS,  
 Newcastle; T X V Black, Gren Gds

Park School: M P Clark, RLC.  
Blandford Upper School: A J  
Clarke, RA, Stourport HS: A D  
Clibby, R Signals, Lincoln Christ  
Hospital: R M Coates, RRF.  
Healdle Hulme School: J V Cohen.  
AGC (SPS), St Clement Danes  
School: N C S Coke, LD, Downside  
School: S J Cole, WG, St Bartholomew's School, Newbury: A  
Coshill, REME, Ladfa School,  
Dubai: P E Connor, R Signals.  
Heath CS, Runcorn: A E Cowe,  
RNL, Swarmermo School, Fareham:  
N J Cowey, RTR, Cranbrook  
School: A D Cox, Stafford.  
Romsey School: L B Cox, RE.

Hormeslea School: H D B Criggs;  
 9/12 L, Harrow School: J P  
 Cresswell, J, EA Sir John Nethorpe  
 School: J E O Cripps, QRL, St  
 Peters HS, Burnham on Crouch: D  
 M Croall, RE, Loreto School: C  
 Croft, 9/12 L Sherborne School: A  
 Crook, C, QRL, Bolton School: J E  
 S Cross, Hilds, St Edmund's  
 School, Canterbury.  
 M A P d'Apice, KRH, Sherborne  
 School: J G Dainty, Cheshire  
 Royal GS, Guildford: J T F Dakin.  
 CRGBWR, Claysmore School: A C  
 Day, SG, Winchester Coll: T W  
 Day, R Signals, Welbeck Coll: J P

pital School; J B Gordon, Hldrs.  
Wellington Coll: M P M Grayson,  
JG, Eton Coll: A J Greaves, RE.  
Glenwood HS, Glenrothes; J E  
Green, Stafford, Newcastle under  
Lyme School; R J Green, RE.  
Mirfield HS, Mirfield; R J H  
Green, D and D, Marlborough  
Coll: M T Greenwood, AAC.  
Sackville School; C J Gregg, RE.  
Daizel HS, Motherwell; G W  
Griffin, Green Howards, Cran-  
brook School; J S Griffiths, R  
Signals, Rivington & Blackrod HS,  
Bolton.  
T A Hanks, RAMC, Danum CS,  
Doncaster; B C Hardwick, RE.

dhill School; K D Harris, AGC  
 (PPO), Bridlington HS, Hornsea;  
 S M J Hawkins, RA, Hurstpoint-  
 point Coll; A F Hawley, R Anglian;  
 Robert Pattinson School; J C Hay,  
 AAC, Ampflehth Coll; J P Hay-  
 ward, REME, Welbeck Coll; J A  
 Hazan, RTR, Charterhouse  
 School; F A Hearn, RLC,  
 Berkhamstead School; N Hepburn,  
 RA, Royal GS, Newcastle; P A  
 Herbert, RLC, Lancaster RGS; M  
 E Hickman, PWRR, Reigate GS; I  
 C W Hill, D and D, Cranleigh  
 School; R J Hinds, KOBR, The  
 Glenners' School, Tonbridge; T L B

Lancaster GS; T J Knowles Jackson, LI, Bryanston School; G J Knox, A and SH, Dollar Academy; J A Kyffin-Topp, Scots DG; Bedstone Coll; J F Lacken, RE, St Johns R C C S, Gravesend; W K M Lawrie, GS, Wellington Coll; T C Lege, RE, Welbeck Coll; R R Lord, PWO, Colchester RGS; D M R Lucas, Gren Gds, Hampton School; T E Luker, RA, Charterhouse School; J P Q Lye, REME, Cranleigh School; S A Lyle, RLC, Ballyclare HS; W R Lynch, RA, Hanley HS, Upton on Severn; F J E Lyon, Gren Gds, Harrow School.

N Macgregor, A & SH,  
Arbroath HS; A J Magro, RA,  
Bristol Cathedral School; J E  
Mardlin, RA, Bedford School; S H  
Marsden, RLC, Glasgow Academy;  
T G J Marsden, RE, St  
Mary's Coll, Wallasey; J W Martin,  
RA, St Lawrence Coll; M W  
Martin, RLC, St Thomas More  
School, Rochford; T J Matson,  
AGC (ETS), Loddon Silklin School,  
Telford; J Maude, DWR, King  
Edward VI Coll; J W McCleery,  
RA, St Edward's School, Oxford; J  
R McElhinney, BW, The Edinburgh  
Academy; I C McEwan, R

PWO, Kings School, Tynemouth; J E H Pratt, RE, Hereford Cathedral School; B P N Ramsay, WG, Downside School; M P Rawlings, son-Plant, KTR, Gordonstoun School; J J Rees, RA, Barry Boys CS; C F Reeve, REME, Warwick School; J E Relph, RA, Duke of York's RMS; P D L Renne, BW, Brighton Col; M D Robb, AAC, Wallace HS, Stirling; F Robinson, RA, Arnold School; F A Robinson, RA, Bradford GS; A L F Robson, LD, Uppingham School; A J Rogers, REME, Birkenhead School; H C M Rogers, LL, Sherborne School; S A Rumbold,

RA, Dr Chailioner's GS.  
Amersham.  
G W A Sale, RGJ, Cranleigh  
School; N P Sargent, RA, Stamford  
School; R A Scobie, RE, Carrick  
Academy; M C Scoble, RE, Hiele's  
School, Plymouth; D Y Seabrook,  
RE, Kelly Coll; S J Shepherd, RA,  
Hiele's School, Plymouth; G J M  
Simpson, IG, Rugby School, J  
Simpson, AGC (E15), Berwick  
TfS; T Skempton, K C  
Northgate HS, Ipswich; R D  
Stanton, DWR, Park School, Barn-  
stable; M J T Smith, KTS, Dulwich  
Sch, J F Smith, J F Smith, KTS,

C.N. Uivert, WG, Eron Coll.; P. Vale, 9/12; L. King, Alfred's School; Wanager, S. J. Walden, RE; Telephone Community Coll; B. G. White, R. Signals, The Portsmouth GS; D. R. White, RA, Toot Hill School, Bingham; J. W. B. White, RDG, Benbridge Academy; H. D. Whiteman, AGC (ETS), Glenmore School, Bournemouth; S. W. Whitley, R. Signals, Coleraine Academic Institution; D. M. Wilkins, AAC, Dean Close School; M. T. Williams, RLC, Dover GS; J. P. Wilks, IG, Sherborne School; J. P. Wilks, PWRR, Reigate GS; A. M. Wilson, SG, Eton Coll; A. S. Wilson,

R. Signals, Springfield Community School; T. A. Winfield, RHF, Allhallows School; A. J. Winter, Int Corps, Queen Elizabeth Hospital; C. M. Withington, C.R.A. Hurstpoint Coll.; D. L. Woods, R.E. Ipswich School; M. Yates, R.K.S. Manor School, Stockport; M. E. J. Young, R.A. Bishops Cleeve School; R. E. A. Youngs, AAC, Nottingham HS.

The following overseas cadets also passed out with a view to being commissioned in the Armed Forces of their countries: The

**Birthdays today**

Mr Roger Abel, former chairman, Conoco Exploration Production, Europe, 54; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, 55; Mr Kenneth Collins, MEP, 58; Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, 63; Air Marshal Sir Maurice Heath, 88; General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, 76; Sir An

thony Jolliffe, former Lord Mayor of London, 59; Dr Tommy Kemp, physician and former rugby-player, 82; Professor David King, Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 58; Mr Mark Knopfler, singer, songwriter and guitarist, 52.

Mr Norris McWhirter, founder, editor, *Guinness Book of Records*, 72; Mr Floris Maibers, KBE, former joint chairman, Jolliffe, NV, 64.

**University College, Oxford**  
Sir Robin Butler is to be elected to the Mastership of University College, Oxford, with effect from January 4, 1998.

**Rotary Club of London**  
Mr Clifford Charles, President of the Rotary Club of London presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Miss Vicki Jensen, Director of Age Concern, also spoke.

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880**  
**PRIVATE: 0171 481 4814**

Does not consolation from  
God suffice you, a word  
whispered quietly in your  
ear? Job 15 : 11

## BIRTHS

**ALDERMAN** - On August 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Alderman, a daughter, Donna, a sister for Adeline and Sand.

**ALLEN** - On August 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Allen, a daughter, Mary, a sister for John and Aron.

**ASHBY** - On August 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Ashby, a daughter, Mary (nee Cade) and Liam, a daughter, Cathlin, a sister for Charles.

**BOWSER** - On August 5 1997 to Mrs. Bowser, a daughter, Mary and Harry, a son, Edmund Hunter Milford.

**CLINTON** - On 8th August 1997 to Mrs. Clinton, a daughter, to Elizabeth (nee Gordon Clark) and Gregory, a son, for Mrs. Clinton.

**CRAWFORD** - On August 4th, at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Crawford, a daughter, Natasha, a sister for Tom.

**DE-LAURIE** - On Monday 7th August 1997, to Mrs. Laurie, a gorgeous baby boy, Max.

**EVANS** - On 8th August 1997 to Mrs. Evans, a daughter, Hannah to Karen Cranwick and Mario, a daughter.

**GARDNER** - On August 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Gardner, a daughter, Elizabeth, a sister for Frances May.

**HALL** - On August 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Mrs. Hall, a daughter, to Rebecca and Todd, a son, for Mrs. Hall.

**HALL-THOMPSON** - On 1st August 1997 to Jennifer (nee Allford) and Richard, a son, to Mrs. Hall, a brother for Henry.

## BIRTHS

**FATCHETT** - Miss and Isabel are pleased to announce the arrival of their son Edward on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1977, at Crofton for Keith and Alice.

**PHEASANT** - On August 8<sup>th</sup> at The Portland Hospital Angus and Frances, a son, Charles James.

**RANHAM** - On July 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Nathalie (née Van Den Daele) wife of Robert Benjamin and daughter Sophie Ann.

**BALFOUR** - On 3rd August 1977 to Emma (née Beagham) and Jason, a son, Alexander George.

**SHELLADY** - On August 6<sup>th</sup> at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Hammonds), wife of David, a daughter, Chloé Diabaster.

**SMITH** - On August 6<sup>th</sup> at Alport, to Margaret Cath Mary, Mrs J. H. Smith, her husband's son, Thomas Sheridan, a brother for Gemma.

**MORLEY** - On August 5<sup>th</sup> at The Portland Hospital, to Anna and Steve, a son Kory, a brother for Charneye and Reece.

**THOMAS** - On 30<sup>th</sup> July to Alison (née Wilson) and Peter, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth Jane.

**TRELEAVEN** - Lydia Francis born Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August between 11-12 noon at St Andrews, Paddington, London. First child of proud parents Lesley and John Treleven.

**WATKINSON** - On August 10<sup>th</sup> to Charlotte (nee Golder) and Charles, a son, Hugh Ian Charles.

**WAYTON** - On August 4<sup>th</sup> to Helen (Mrs George) and Julie, a son, Tobias George.

**HUGHESMAN** - 11<sup>th</sup> Aug  
Beloved son  
She will be  
very happy  
to welcome his  
generation to  
the family home  
of teaching  
Wakefield  
North Yorkshire  
School.  
especially as  
he was born  
at Queens  
Bournemouth  
many years ago  
the Commis-  
sioner of the  
Records Me,  
£7,00pm  
Service at  
folks church  
Church, Cn  
Southampton  
born on act  
50 years,  
and he has  
Crestedstone  
the family  
Queensboro  
Rev. Bruce  
Rice, officiat  
desired, off  
special Can  
Choir.  
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## DEATHS

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

**9th.** HUDSON - Peacefully at the College of St Barnabas on Monday, August 15th, 1988, at the age of 77, was the Reverend Thomas Bernard Hudson, MA, sometimes known as Tom, of St Paul's College, Ambatoherana, a member of the Anglican and Chancery, brother of Mary (Stevens) Hudson, CSD and of John Hudson, CSD of the College on Friday 15th August at 11.00am, followed by a service of Holy Communion. Memorial gifts listed below. Family: Mrs J. Hudson, Warden, College of St Barnabas, Lingfield, Surrey GU26 0BN. The College's Centenary Appeal.

**10th.** LINGELL - On August 9th after a short illness Peter George aged 77 years. Much loved father of Mrs Margaret Lingell and Mrs Caroline and highly respected and loved grandfather. Funeral Service on Monday August 18th at 2.00pm at St Andrew's Church, Sharnbrook. Kept followed by burial. Friends may call at the funeral home, 100, The Priory, Sharnbrook. Funeral Directors, Hensons Road, Grays, Weymouth, Dorset. The Oldham 0504040.

**11th.** HINGWOOD - On August 10th, 1988, at Colwyn Bay (Col. Min), aged 77, of South Newington, Oxon. Dear husband of Mrs Margaret Hingwood. Beloved father of Joan, Richard and Diana, and a loving grandfather. Funeral service on Friday, August 19th at St Peter Ad Vincula, South Newington, Oxon. Friends may be assured that the service will be announced.

**12th.** HINGWOOD - Joan Mary B, TD, DL, of South Newington, Oxon. Peggy and father of Mrs M. Hingwood.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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OBITUARIES

# DONALD CRICHTON-MILLER

Donald Crichton-Miller, TD, former public school headmaster, died on August 5 aged 90. He was born on December 7, 1906.

Donald Crichton-Miller was among Britain's most highly regarded headmasters when, in 1953, he was sought out by the school governors to take charge of Stowe.

A Cambridge rugby Blue and Scottish international, he had been made Headmaster of Taunton School at the astonishingly early age of 29. There, according to one of his successors John Rae in his own autobiography *Delusions of Grandeur*, Crichton-Miller "had taken Taunton apart and put it together again in better shape".

Nine years later he had started a similar job at Fettes, his own old school in Edinburgh, where he doubled the number of pupils during his time there and made it one of the best sports schools in the country. Moving to Stowe, at the height of his powers, aged 52, he should have looked forward to winning still more golden opinions, particularly as he had taught there as a young man.

But things then went badly wrong. His robust, authoritarian style, which, according to Rae, had "inspired great loyalty" at Taunton and later at Fettes, was resented by a number of Stowe's senior housemasters. Moreover, some of these, as is often the way in such closed communities, maintained their own private lines to the governors — especially to those of them who were old boys of the school.

Arguments over discipline and admissions, fuelled by this damaging clash of personalities, led to a struggle for power — and eventually to an independent inquiry led by a QC. Rather prejudicially, Crichton-Miller himself was suspended while it was held.

Still, the inquiry found in his favour. But Crichton-Miller was then accused of leaking its findings. Charged with betraying a confidence, he was hauled in by the chairman of



the governors and told he could either resign or be summarily sacked. Given five minutes to make up his mind, he chose the former — and stepped into premature retirement after only five years at the school. It seemed a sad end to a career which had promised so much.

Donald Crichton-Miller was born in San Remo, Italy, the son of one of Britain's leading psychiatrists Hugh Crichton-Miller, founder of London's Tavistock Clinic. Crichton-Miller senior had at one time divided his practice between Aviemore in the Highlands in the summer and San Remo in the winter.

But the family stemmed from Edinburgh, so it was to Fettes that Hugh Crichton-Miller sent his son shortly after the First World War. There he not only became head boy but demonstrated his early rugby prowess as a wing forward.

He also won a history exhibition to Pembroke College, Cambridge. He spent four years at university, which was fortunate, because in his fourth year he won his Blue — in those days a significant embellishment to any schoolmaster's CV. He also won several caps for Scotland, attracting attention by his speed and adventurousness — and some

criticism for not pulling his weight in the scrum.

His sporting reputation and contacts, however, helped him to get his first teaching appointment as an assistant master at Monmouth School in 1929. He moved to Brynston two years later, then to the newly founded Stowe for his first spell at the school in 1934, teaching history and English under the famous J.F. Roxburgh. His first headship at Taunton began in 1936.

A captain in the Territorial Army, he was called up on the outbreak of the war to serve with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. But Taunton School suffered

so badly from his absence that he was discharged from the Army after a year to return to his study — on condition that he ran its Officer Training Corps (OTC). He also had to help to organise accommodation for two other schools which had been evacuated there during the war.

An active member of the Church of Scotland, Crichton-Miller taught divinity throughout his time as a headmaster. But his strengths and his principal interest lay in administration and school governance. He was chosen to carry out education surveys for Pakistan in 1951 and Malia in 1956, which illustrates his then growing reputation.

A strong man in terms of physique and personality, he exuded a presence which few questioned. It was said that he was loved by his pupils and feared by his staff — but respected by all.

Boys at Taunton dubbed him "the Monarch", and when he appeared on the touchline at the school's rugby match, his own school broke into loud spontaneous cheering.

One theory about what went wrong at Stowe involves an incident towards the end of his time at Fettes. He discovered, to his great shame and disappointment, that a number of prefects had been smoking in the hall porter's office — in flagrant breach of school rules. Moreover, this had been going on under his nose.

Although he dealt swiftly and severely with the culprits, expelling the school's head prefect, his confidence was said to have been shaken. At Stowe, therefore, he decided to stamp his authority on the school from the outset — so running full-tilt into opposition.

In retirement, however, he accepted a number of school governorships, of both fee-paying and state schools, and retained close contacts with those in which he himself had taught. These included Stowe, whose new headmaster always made him feel welcome.

Donald Crichton-Miller married his wife Monica in 1931. They met at Cambridge where she was a Girton undergraduate and lacrosse Blue. She survives him together with two sons and a daughter.

# ROBERT SPENCER

Robert Spencer, lutenist, died of cancer on August 8 aged 65. He was born on May 9, 1932.



ROBERT SPENCER was influential in many spheres of British musical life — performance, teaching, collecting and scholarship. A founder-member of the Bream Consort, he also played lute and guitar for the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon and theorbo continuo for Raymond Leppard's ground-breaking early opera productions at Glyndebourne in the 1960s.

This experience with the stage set him apart from many colleagues in the early music movement. Spencer was passionate about the theatricality of performance, as a soloist, as an accompanist and as a teacher at the Royal Academy of Music.

A singer himself, he was a remarkably sensitive accompanist, working with Wilfred Brown, Janet Baker, James Bowman, Michael Chance and many others. Perhaps his most notable partnership was with Alfred Deller, taking over from Desmond Dupré as his accompanist and patiently transposing Deller's repertoire progressively down by semi-tones as the counter-tenor's voice began to deepen with age.

Spencer was a fine lute soloist in his own right, with a large, rich tone, but he never converted from playing with flesh and nails in the guitar fashion to the so-called "P" technique, taking runs with the thumb and index finger, which is now *de rigueur* for lutenists. He grew increasingly self-conscious about this, and sadly gave up playing altogether a few years ago.

Spencer was appointed a professor at the Royal Academy of Music in 1974 and also taught at the Royal College, the Guildhall School of Music and countless summer schools around the world. His early English song classes at the Academy were highly successful, and many singers, including leading professionals now specialising in all periods and styles, benefited from Spencer's insights into Dowland and Purcell.

Never pedantic, and highly

sceptical of those advocating "period pronunciation" and strict adherence to treatises, Spencer had a gift for teaching singers how to communicate directly with the audience, especially through words and gestures.

Spencer was a noted authority on early English music and on the 16th-century guitar, publishing many scholarly articles and editions. He lectured and examined at Oxford and King's College London and was frequently consulted by Sotheby's and the British Library about manuscripts and old editions. But perhaps his greatest achievement was as a collector himself.

Not a person of independent means, he nevertheless, through shrewd dealing and a good eye, amassed one of the greatest collections of 16th and 17th-century English printed music, manuscripts and books, superior in some respects even to those of the Bodleian. His prized possessions were a lute book bearing the coat of arms of Queen

Elizabeth I and the only extensive writing in the hand of John Dowland, the lutenist-composer. He also assembled a fine collection of Renaissance and Baroque lutes and guitars, all meticulously maintained in playing condition, together with furniture, paintings and other illustrations of musicians.

Spencer was liked and respected by everyone who knew him. He dedicated his life to his students and the many singers he accompanied. But the abiding memory of his closest colleagues will have is of a soloist: several years ago, in the midst of a gruelling North American tour with the Deller Consort, Spencer, so sick with flu that he could barely walk on stage, played Dowland's *Melancholy Galliard* in a manner which was both tragic and uplifting, going straight to the hearts of the audience, most of whom had never before heard a note of Dowland.

He is survived by his wife, Jill Nott-Bower, the actress-singer, and two sons.

# DRUM MATTHEWS

Drum Matthews, FRS, geophysicist, died of a heart attack on July 20 aged 66. He was born on February 5, 1931.

DRUM MATTHEWS was a distinguished geophysicist whose scientific discoveries in the 1960s helped to bring about the "plate tectonics revolution", overturning conventional geological wisdom and explaining the origins of the oceanic crust. Later, in the 1980s, he turned his attention to the study of the continents, and he led Britain's national effort to deep seismic reflection

profiling until his retirement in 1990.

Drummond Hoyle Matthews was educated at Brynston before doing National Service as an officer in the Royal Navy and taking a degree in natural sciences at King's College, Cambridge. From 1955 to 1957 he carried out 'sometimes arduous field work with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (now the British Antarctic Survey).

He would later blame the high-fat field rations on which he had to survive during this period in his life for causing

lasting damage to his health — he suffered from diabetes and consequent heart problems. But it was during these years, too, that he first came into contact with the then heretical ideas of continental drift — ideas more current in the southern hemisphere than in either Europe or North America.

Matthews returned to Cambridge in 1958 to work for his PhD under Maurice Hill, studying basalt dredged from the deep sea-floor of the eastern North Atlantic Ocean. Remaining in Cambridge as a Research Fellow of King's,

then as head of the marine geophysics group from 1966, he led many research cruises, particularly in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and in the Mediterranean.

It was data acquired during the International Indian Ocean Expedition in 1962 that prompted his most influential discovery, published with his then doctoral student Fred Vine in *Nature* in 1963. Vine and Matthews noted that the pattern of magnetic stripes that cover the ocean floor (known since the early 1950s) could be explained by ideas of ocean-floor spreading and

periodic reversals of the Earth's magnetic field. This work led irresistibly to widespread acceptance of the ideas of continental drift, the impermanence of oceanic crust, and to plate tectonics, so providing the paradigm which underpins all geological theories of the past quarter-century. The reaping of this harvest occupied Drum and his graduate students, many of whom later became distinguished colleagues, for many years.

By the late 1970s the plate tectonics revolution had led to much greater understanding of mid-ocean ridges and of oceanic evolution. Matthews sought new scientific challenges in the study of the continents, which defied (and still defy) understanding in the same detail. Together with Derek Blundell, he initiated the British Institutions' Reflection Profiling Syndicate (BIRPS), the first successful national deep seismic-reflection programme to be established in Europe, and the first to undertake widespread crustal-penetrating continental seismic profiling at sea.

He led BIRPS from its foundation in 1980 until he took early retirement after a heart attack in 1990. He presided over an enormous data-collection effort and over the resulting growth in understanding brought about by the application of deep reflection profiling to the task of mapping the British Isles for the first time in the third — vertical — dimension. One of the cross-section profiles most commonly seen in today's



undergraduate textbooks was named DRUM (Deep Reflections from the Upper Mantle) in his honour by his colleagues, and exemplifies the power of this geophysical technique to penetrate ever-deeper (more than 50 miles down) into the Earth.

Matthews was much loved not only for his leadership and encouragement of younger scientists, but also for his quirky and often whimsical sense of humour. The name BIRPS gave much entertainment (the

second word in its name was originally to have been "Universities"). Matthews once delighted in lecturing an eminent audience on "BIRPS above — deep gas below", and earlier in his career was happy to discover a new oceanic deep adjacent to the Peake Deep, which he was then able to name the Frenn Deep.

On his retirement from Cambridge University Matthews accepted the accolade of having a building named in

his honour, with the proviso that it be called not the Matthews Building but the Drum Building. He regarded life and scientific inquiry as a great adventure, which he shared freely. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1974.

Drum Matthews was twice married. He is survived by his widow Sandie, who brought great joy to the last ten years of his life, and by his first wife Rachel and their son and daughter.

# PERSONAL COLUMN

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**ALPINE ASCENTS.**  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.  
Sir, No one will dispute the moral you draw in your article of yesterday from Mr. Whympers account of the accident on the Matterhorn. Allow me to suggest another — viz, that in all mountain expeditions involving risk, one of the party should be invested with the authority and responsibility of captain. It would obviously fall within his province to put a veto on the further advance of any one of the party who might show symptoms of failing powers, to decide where a choice of routes was open, to enforce all due precautions as to the tying of the party with proper ropes at proper distances, &c.; to give with authority the necessary cautions to the less experienced climbers, and to check anything like rashness or carelessness on their part. Suppose that on the late occasion Mr. Whympers had been invested with this sort of authority, we may surmise that he would have thought it right to prevent Mr. Hadow's going on when he observed that his experience seemed inadequate to the work. We may feel certain that he would not only have suggested but enforced the precaution of attaching ropes to the rocks, to aid the descent at certain points. In either case, the accident would probably not have happened. Let me

## TRUSTEE ACTS

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**LEGAL NOTICES**  
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 95 of the Companies Act 1985 that a meeting of the shareholders of the company will be held at the offices of the company on the 15th day of September 1997 at 10.00 am.

**ON THIS DAY**  
August 12, 1865  
Edward Whympers (1840-1911) made the first ascent of the Matterhorn (14,692 ft) on July 13, 1865. A terrible tragedy occurred on the descent — four of his companions fell to their deaths.

It may be asked, is not the guide, or the chief guide if there are more than one, the natural leader of the party? I should say that no guide could take the command of a party in the full sense I mean — except, of course, where he was conducting mere novices, which is not the sort of case I contemplate. It is enough to say that the guide's position is an anomalous one. On one side the fitness of all, from skill and experience, to lead, on the other side he is but the servant of the party. Hence you may have from him outspoken advice, warning, and remonstrance, but you will not have the decisive exercise of authority. I am well aware that the choice of a captain may often be a delicate matter, and his duties when chosen disagreeable, and requiring some moral courage to perform. Still, as to the first point — put the only difficult case, where two or more skilled mountaineers of equal pretensions are of the party, at the worst they can draw lots, or can take the command in rotation — while the sanction of usage once given to the captain's position, we need not fear the lack of moral courage to perform the duties among the type of men whose qualities and performances are likely to point them out for the post.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
Aug. 10. G.M.





# Choose your fantasy team

## HOW TO PLAY

- You have £25 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £25 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Premier League, FA Cup, EFL's Scottish League Premier division and Tenthent's Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

### POINTS AWARDED

- GOALKEEPER**
- 1 keep clean sheet (per half) ..... +3 points
  - Scores goal ..... +20 points
  - Saves penalty ..... +1 point
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- 1 keep clean sheet ..... +3 points
  - Scores goal ..... +4 points
- MIDFIELD PLAYER**
- 1 keep clean sheet ..... +1 point
  - Scores goal ..... +3 points
- STRIKER**
- Scores goal ..... +2 points
- ALL PLAYERS**
- On winning side ..... +1 point
  - Appearance ..... +1 point
  - Scores hat-trick ..... +10 bonus points
- MANAGER**
- Wins ..... +3 points
  - Draws ..... +1 point

• Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points  
• Must have played for 75 minutes in the match • Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

### POINTS DEDUCTED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Concedes goal ..... -2 points
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Concedes goal ..... -1 point
- ALL PLAYERS**
- Sent off ..... -5 points
  - Booked ..... -1 point
  - Concedes penalty ..... -1 point
  - Misses penalty ..... -1 point
  - Scores own goal ..... -1 point
- MANAGER**
- Team loss ..... -1 point

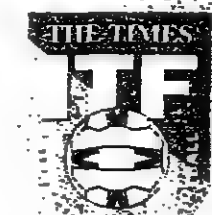
## TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 60 transfers for the season. Thereafter the transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each week up to December 25. Then all teams registered on that day will be allocated an extra 30 transfers. Teams registered after this date will be allocated 30 transfers for the season. Full details of how to transfer will appear in The Times regularly during the season.

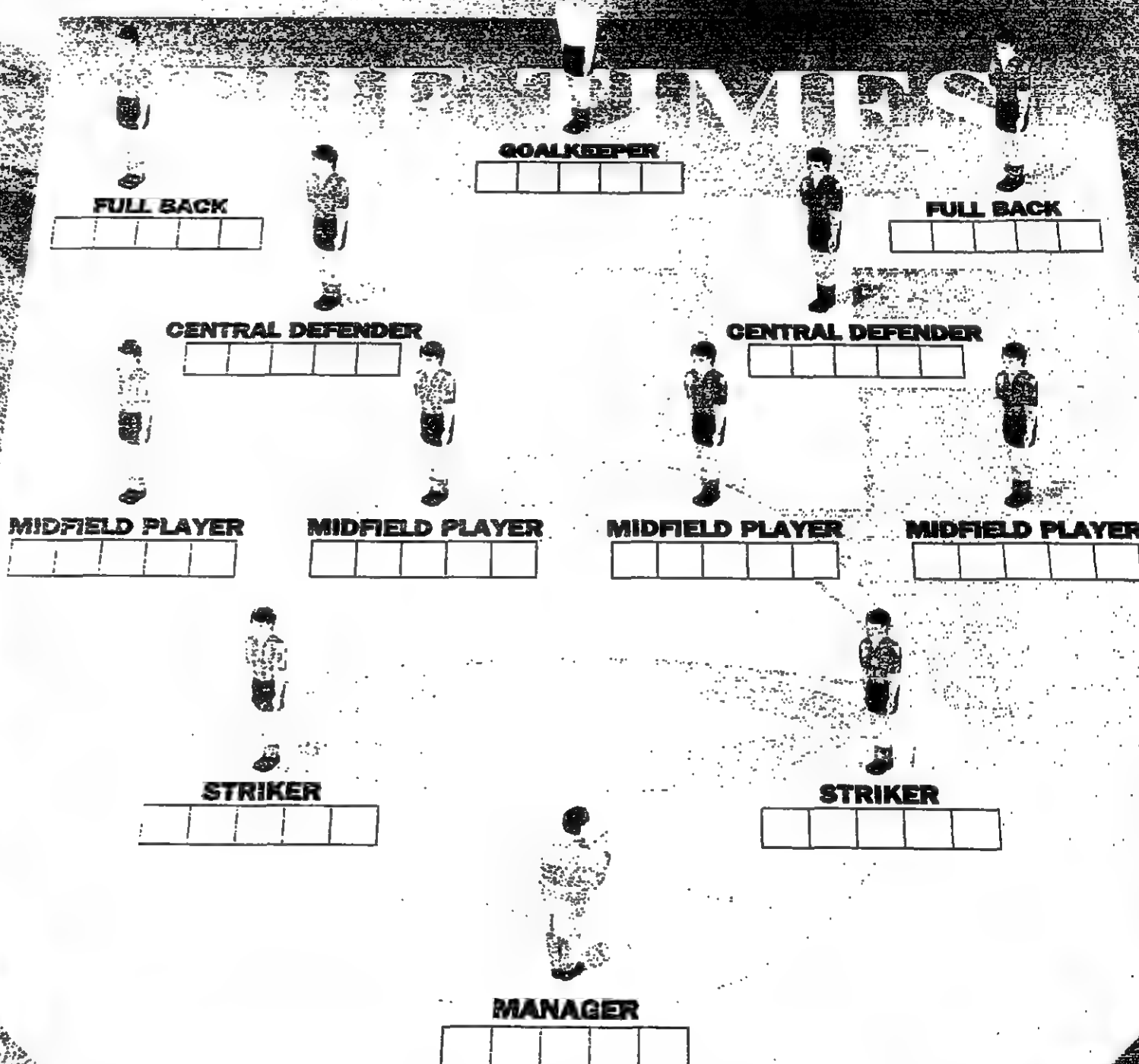
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- Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Tap in the full set of telephone numbers (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and manager. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). Finally you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN). Calls cost 50p per minute. Each call lasts about eight minutes.
- **BY the Internet:** ITF is available on The Times website ([www.the-times.co.uk](http://www.the-times.co.uk)). The Internet version enables you to enter the game and play for the entire season, giving you access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and your team history.
- **BY LineOne:** You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus 10 hours' access to LineOne and the Internet call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at [www.LineOne.net](http://www.LineOne.net).
- **BY Sky Sports Interactive:** Play ITF on Sky Sports Interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

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Midfielder	
Striker	
Striker	
Manager	

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 (Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)  
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The new season is upon us — and so is your chance to play interactive Team Football (ITF) in the hope of winning £50,000. The opening weekend of the season unveiled an array of dazzling talent from all around the world performing on the British stage. And there is the lure of the most glittering prize of all — the World Cup — at the end of it.

To match the excitement, ITF has returned with a bigger and better game, and, although the first weekend of the FA Cup Premiership has come and gone, there is still time to enter. The Times, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. That expertise will be

rewarded with a £50,000 prize for the winning team selector plus £10,000 for the second prize and £5,000 for the third prize. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).

Then there is the new FA Cup prize. Every team entered into the ITF league will automatically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.

That is not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concurrently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students League, and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each

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- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
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- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter: six different ways (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)

category will win a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly prizes of Premier League tickets, Mitre footballs signed by Stuart Pearce and Mitre sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.

In the Times ITF league, you

are pitting your selectorial skills not only against other readers of The Times but also against those even more in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), current Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

You may transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, a may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

The line is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will find in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

You may make up to four transfers per telephone call and may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you once the transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

Calls cost 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much. Transfer number 0801 884 622. Outside the UK: +44 990 260 535.

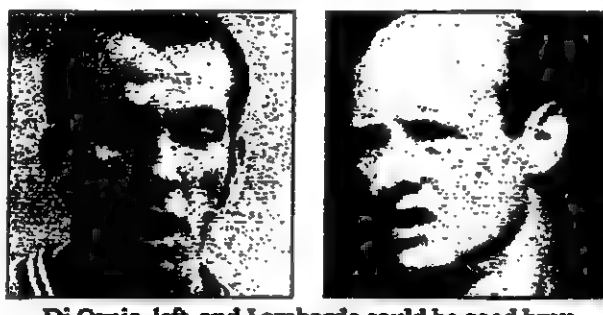


Riedle has made a good impression with Liverpool — but is he the man for your team?

Code	Name	Team	Price
41005	Attilio Lombardo	Crystal Palace	£2.5m
51108	Francesco Balmo	Derby County	£2.5m
55003	Katharina Riedle	Liverpool	£4.5m

Code	Name	Team	Price
20801	Graeme La Saux	Chelsea	£4.0m
40803	Regi Blinker	Blackburn Rovers	£1.5m
50802	Paolo di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	£3.5m



Di Canio, left, and Lombardo could be good buys

Code	Name	Team	Price
10101	Jim Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.0
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.0
10401	David Watson	Barnsley	1.0
10501	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.5
10601	Keith Brannigan	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
10701	Stewart Kerr	Celtic	4.0
10801	Ed de Goey	Chelsea	3.0
10901	Steve Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.5
11001	Carlo Nash	Crystal Palace	1.0
11101	Kevin Miller	Derby County	2.0
11201	Mark Poom	Derby County	1.5
11301	Solo Dylalas	Dundee United	3.0
11401	Jan Westwater	Dunfermline	1.0
11501	Neville Southall	Everton	2.0
11601	Gilles Rousset	Hearts	1.5
11701	Chris Reid	Hibernian	1.0
11801	Dragoje Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.0
11901	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	3.5
12001	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	2.0
12101	David James	Liverpool	3.5
12201	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.0
12301	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.0
12401	Shay Given	Newcastle United	4.0
12501	Andy Goram	Rangers	5.0
12601	Kevin Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
12701	Alan Main	St Johnstone	0.5
12801	Miles Taylor	Southampton	1.5
12901	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
13001	Ludek Miklosko	West Ham United	2.0
13101	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.0
20301	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.0
20401	Steve Staunton	Aston Villa	3.0
20501	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	3.0
20601	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	2.5
20701	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	2.0
20801	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	0.5
20901	Neil Thompson	Barnsley	0.5
21001	Jeff Kenne	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21101	Patrick Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21201	Neil Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
21301	Robbie Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
21401	Tommy Boyd	Celtic	3.5
21501	Toash McKinlay	Celtic	3.5
21601	Jacques McManis	Celtic	3.0
21701	Graeme La Saux	Chelsea	4.0
21801	Dan Petrescu	Chelsea	4.0
21901	Celestine Babayaro	Chelsea	2.5
22001	David Burrows	Coventry City	1.0
22101	Brian Borrows	Coventry City	1.0
22201	Marcus Hall	Coventry City	1.5
22301	Dean Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.5
22401	Marc Edevy	Crystal Palace	1.0
22501	Kevin Muscat	Derby County	1.5
22601	Chris Powell	Derby County	1.0
22701	Dean Yates	Derby County	2.5
22801	Andy Hinsheliff	Everton	1.5
22901	Earl Barrett	Everton	1.5
23001	Terry Phelan	Everton	1.5
23101	Gary Locke	Hearts	1.5
23201	Dylan Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.0
23301	Gary Kelly	Leeds United	2.5
23401	David Robertson	Leeds United	2.5
23501	Miles Whitlow	Leicester City	1.5
23601	Steve Guppy	Leicester City	1.5
23701	Stig Inge Bjornebye	Liverpool	4.0
23801	Jason McAteer	Liverpool	4.0
23901	Dennis Irwin	Manchester United	3.5
24001	Gary Neville	Manchester United	3.5
24101	Phil Neville	Manchester United	3.5
24201	Steve Watson	Newcastle United	3.0
24301	Warren Barton	Newcastle United	2.0
24401	John Beroxford	Newcastle United	1.5
24501	Stuart Pearce	Newcastle United	3.0
24601	Alex Cleland	Rangers	3.0
24701	Stella Stensens	Rangers	2.5
24801	Patrick Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.0
24901	Ian Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.0
25001	Jason Dodd	Southampton	1.0
25101	Francis Benali	Southampton	0.75
25201	Simon Charlton	Southampton	0.75
25301	Clive Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
25401	Justin Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.0
25501	Justin Dicks	West Ham United	3.0
25601	Andy Impey	West Ham United	1.5
25701	Sam Thatcher	West Ham United	2.0
25801	Kerry Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.0
25901	Alan Kimble	Wimbledon	2.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Brian O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.0
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	3.5
30301	Martin Keown	Arsenal	3.5
30401	Gilles Grimandi	Arsenal	2.0
30501	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	3.5
30601	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.5
30701	Arjan de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.0
30801	Adrian Moses	Barnsley	0.5
30901	Matty Appleby	Barnsley	0.5
31001	Hector Berr	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
31101	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
31201	Gerry Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
31301	Gordon Strachan	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31401	Chris Furlough	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31501	Enrico Annoni	Celtic	3.0
31601	Malik Mackay	Celtic	3.0
31701	Alan Stubbs	Celtic	3.0
31801	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.0
31901	Michael Duberry	Chelsea	3.0
32001	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	2.5
32101	Bernard Lambourde	Chelsea	2.5
32201	Liam Delish	Coventry City	1.5
32301	Richard Smith	Coventry City	1.5
32401	Paul Williams	Coventry City	1.5
32501	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.5
32601	Andy Linaghan	Crystal Palace	0.75
32701	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
32801	Igor Stimac	Derby County	2.5
32901	Jacobs Laurens	Derby County	1.5
33001	Steven Pressley	Dundee United	3.0
33101	Greg Shields	Dunfermline	1.5
33201	Steven Bille	Everton	3.0
33301	Dave Watson	Everton	3.0
33401	David Unsworth	Everton	2.0
33501	David Wair	Hearts	2.0
33601	John Hughes	Hibernian	1.5
33701	David Wetherall	Leeds United	2.0
33801	Gunnar Halle	Leeds United	2.0
33901	Robert Molarum	Leeds United	2.0
34001	Lucas Radebe	Leeds United	1.5
34101	Matt Elliott	Leicester City	3.0
34201	Pontus Keskitalo	Leicester City	2.0
34301	Steve Walsh	Leicester City	1.5
34401	Mark Wright	Liverpool	3.0
34501	Dominic Matteo	Liverpool	3.0
34601	Bjorn Kvanne	Liverpool	3.0
34701	David May	Manchester United	3.5
34801	Gary Pallister	Manchester United	3.5
34901	Martin van der Gaag	Motherwell	1.5
35001	Philippus Albert	Newcastle United	3.0
35101	Darren Peacock	Newcastle United	3.0
35201	Steve Howey	Newcastle United	2.0
35301	Alessandro Pistone	Newcastle United	3.0
35401	Sergio Porri	Rangers	3.5
35501	Josephin Bjorklund	Rangers	3.5
35601	Lorenzo Amoroso	Rangers	3.5
35701	Dea Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
35801	John Nwanne	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
35901	Peter Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
36001	Stuart McCusker	St Johnstone	0.5
36101	Richard Dryden	Southampton	1.0
36201	Clara Lindkvist	Southampton	1.0
36301	Ulrich van Gool	Southampton	1.0
36401	Sam Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
36501	John Seales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
36601	Ramon Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
36701	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
36801	Rio Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.5
36901	Richard Hall	West Ham United	2.0
37001	Steve Potts	West Ham United	1.5
37101	Chris Perry	Wimbledon	2.5
37201	Deen Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
40101	Eoin Jess	Aberdeen	3.0
40201	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.0
40301	Marc Overmars	Arsenal	5.5
40401	Patrick Vieira	Arsenal	5.5
40501	Stephan Hughes	Arsenal	2.5
40601	Ray Parlour	Arsenal	2.5
40701	Daniell Platt	Arsenal	1.5
40801	Mark Draper	Aston Villa	4.0
40901	Ian Taylor	Aston Villa	2.5
41001	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.0
41101	Nail Redfern	Barnsley	2.0
41201	Eric Tinkler	Barnsley	2.0
41301	Darren Sheridan	Barnsley	2.0
41401	Martin Bullock	Barnsley	1.0
41501	Jason Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41601	Billy McKelvey	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41701	Tin Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41801	Garry Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41901	Alan Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.0
42001	Scott Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
42101	Per Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS			
Code	Name	Team	Price
40804	Michael Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
40805	Jamie Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
40701	Andreas Thom	Celtic	4.5
40702	Phil O'Donnell	Celtic	3.0
40703	Peter Grant	Celtic	1.5
40704	Craig Burley	Celtic	3.0
42503	Regi Blinker	Celtic	1.5
40801	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	4.0
40802	Roberto di Matteo	Chelsea	4.0
40803	Eddie Newton	Chelsea	2.5
40804	Gustavo Poyet	Chelsea	2.0
40901	Gary McAllister	Coventry City	2.5
40902	Trond Egil Solbreid	Coventry City	1.5
40903	John Salako	Coventry City	1.5
41002	Simon Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.0
41003	Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	Paul Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.5
41005	Attilio Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.5
41101	Aljosa Asanovic	Derby County	2.5
41102	Stefano Eramio	Derby County	2.5
41103	Darryl Powell	Derby County	1.5
41104	Christian Dailly	Derby County	1.5
41105	Robin van der Laan	Derby County	1.0
41106	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	1.0
41201	Robbie Winters	Dundee United	3.5
41301	Andy Smith	Dunfermline	2.0
41302	Derek Fleming	Dunfermline	1.5
41401	Gary Speed	Everton	3.5
41402	Joe Parkinson	Everton	1.5
41403	Garoth Farrelly	Everton	1.5
41501	Neil McCann	Hearts	2.5
41601	Chris Jackson	Hibernian	2.0
41602	Barry Lavey	Hibernian	2.0
41701	Jim McIntyre	Kilmarnock	3.5
41001	David Hopkin	Leeds United	3.0
41801	Lee Bowyer	Leeds United	3.0
41802	Lee Inge Heasted	Leeds United	2.5
41803	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	2.5
41901	Garry Parker	Leicester City	2.0
41902	Neil Lennon	Leicester City	2.0
41903	Muzzy Izzet	Leicester City	2.0
41904	Scott Taylor	Leicester City	1.5
42001	Steve McManis	Liverpool	7.0
42002	Oyvind Leonhardsen	Liverpool	4.0
42003	Michael Thomas	Liverpool	3.0
42004	Jamie Redknapp	Liverpool	3.0
42005	John Barnes	Liverpool	2.5
42006	Paul Ince	Liverpool	6.0
42101	David Beckham	Manchester United	8.0
42102	Ryan Giggs	Manchester United	7.0
42103	Roy Keane	Manchester United	5.0
42104	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	4.0
42105	Andy Cole	Manchester United	5.0
42201	Billy Davies	Motherwell	2.0
42301	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	5.0
42302	Keith Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.5
42303	David Batty	Newcastle United	2.5
42401	Brian Laudrup	Rangers	8.0
42402	Paul Gascoigne	Rangers	6.0
42403	Jonas Thern	Rangers	4.0
42404	Jorg Albertz	Rangers	4.0
42501	Benito Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.0
42502	Mark Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.5
42504	Graham Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.0
42701	Atilla Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42701	John Magilton	Southampton	1.5
42702	Robbie Slater	Southampton	0.75
42703	Neil Maddison	Southampton	0.75
42801	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42802	Darren Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42803	Ruel Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42804	David Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42805	David Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
42901	Eyal Barkovitz	West Ham United	2.5
42902	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	2.5
42903	John Moncur	West Ham United	2.0
42904	Michael Hughes	West Ham United	1.5
43001	Robbie Earle	Wimbledon	4.5
43002	Ned Andley	Wimbledon	2.0
43003	Vinny Jones	Wimbledon	2.0
43004	Carl Hinchey	Wimbledon	1.0



...an unlimited number  
VS20.







## Eurodollar board backs £95m American bid

By ADAM JONES

THE board of EuroDollar, the car-rental agency that shocked investors with a profits slump after flotation in 1994, has recommended a £95.1 million bid by Republic Industries, the US group chaired by Wayne Huizenga, the garbage-in-videos billionaire.

Yesterday, Republic said it had bought 29.9 per cent of EuroDollar in the open market. It has undertakings from directors relating to another 13 per cent and is unlikely to fail in the

bid. The offer of 190p per share cash, with a loan note alternative, represents a premium of 60 per cent to EuroDollar's closing price last Friday. One big shareholder likely to accept said yesterday: "We're not disgusted by the offer."

EuroDollar was listed in 1994 at an offer price of 220p. Pre-tax profits fell from £14.6 million to £4 million after flotation following a collapse in the resale value of its fleet.

Institutions who picked the shares up cheaply include Gartmore, NatWest's fund management arm,

and Schroders. Mercury Asset Management is another big shareholder.

The Huizenga family made their money through rubbish collection, starting the Ace Scavenger Service in 1984. The company became Waste Management, which attracted controversy in the 1980s for misdemeanours including pollution violations and price-fixing.

Mr Huizenga is a former chairman of Blockbuster Video and is regarded as having turned round Republic's previously see-sawing performance. He is a keen sports fan,

owning the American football team, the Miami Dolphins.

Republic's interests include Alamo Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental, as well as financial and security services. Geoff Corbett, of Republic, said the management of EuroDollar would be retained. He said EuroDollar had tamed the volatility that led to the profits slump through guaranteed repurchase programmes. EuroDollar has about 15 per cent of the UK rental market, he said, adding that Republic wanted to increase the number of foreigners renting

through the company. He said 95 per cent of EuroDollar's customers are from the UK. Alamo already has some offices in the UK, but Mr Corbett said there would be no problem of one business growing at the expense of the other. EuroDollar's weaker US franchise, Dollar, may be rebranded.

Ian Moseley, chief executive, will receive nearly £4 million for his holdings. Other directors have holdings ranging from 1.4 million shares to 1.6 million. The shares closed at 188p; up 69p.

## Asians and IMF put £10bn into Thailand

By GEORGE STIVELL

THE world's second largest economic rescue took shape yesterday as the International Monetary Fund and several nations led by Japan offered Thailand \$16 billion (£10 billion) in loans to shore up the troubled baht currency.

It is the largest package offered to a single country since the IMF and other donors led by America made nearly \$40 billion available to Mexico during the 1995 currency crisis.

The loans would give Thailand the foreign exchange reserves it needs to fill in the black holes left by the collapse of the baht last month. The offer came as Thailand began strict economic reforms, including cutting government spending, raising taxes and closing dozens of troubled finance companies.

Japan and the IMF will each provide \$4 billion in loans. Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore will provide \$1 billion each, while South Korea and Indo-

nesia will lend \$500 million each. The other \$3 billion will come from the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank and maybe China, Germany, Britain, France and Canada also sent officials to the IMF meeting in Tokyo yesterday but did not offer contributions.

Thailand gave no official reaction and share prices on its stock market slid 0.72 per cent in subdued trading.

For years, Thailand had boasted one of the world's fastest growing economies. But in early July the baht fell sharply, exacerbating problems in the financial industry caused by falling property prices and bad loans.

Free market economic policies in the late 1980s produced average annual growth rates of more than 9 per cent, but these policies also triggered a speculative property boom in which investors built more buildings than they could fill and lenders poured money into projects doomed to fail.

The Bank of Thailand has already injected \$14.5 billion into the country's troubled finance sector.

When the Government floated the baht currency, it promptly lost 20 per cent against the dollar. The flotation was intended to make Thai exports more competitive. Soon afterward, the currencies of Malaysia and the Philippines fell, causing some investors to lower their expectations of economic growth in South-East Asia.

Yesterday the Malaysian ringgit continued to fall against the US dollar, hitting a 12-month low. The ringgit sank to a low of 2.7430 per dollar, its weakest since February 1994. The currency has remained under pressure since plunging 2 per cent on Friday shortly after Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, said he was happy with the ringgit's level.

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### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Sells	Buys
Australia \$	2.28	2.00
Austria Sch	21.74	20.08
Belgium Fr	64.06	68.08
Canada \$	2.343	2.156
Cyprus CypL	0.908	0.838
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.93
Finland Mk	8.35	8.80
France Fr	10.40	9.82
Germany Dm	3.11	2.87
Greece Dr	488	448
Hong Kong \$	13.12	11.82
Ireland P	127	107
Israel Sh	5.94	5.28
Italy Lit	3651	2814
Japan Yen	166.23	161.70
Malta	0.573	0.514
Netherlands Gld	5.512	5.217
New Zealand \$	2.64	2.40
Norway Kr	13.74	11.80
Portugal Esc	310.53	286.50
S Africa Rd	8.15	7.19
Slovak Pl	259.19	241.00
Sweden Sw	13.48	12.58
Switzerland Fr	2.97	2.35
Turkey Lira	269568	249790
USA \$	1.598	1.565

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Friendly Tigers seek conversion

By JASON NIMM



Peter Wheeler is ready to tackle a change of stripes for the Leicester Tigers

THE prospect of the first rugby union side to float on the stock market moved closer yesterday when Leicester FC, one of the leading teams in the Courage League, announced plans to convert to a plc.

Leicester — nicknamed the Tigers — is a friendly society, owned by 9,000 members who pay £200 a year each to watch the team. But Peter Wheeler, the former England player who is now the club's chief executive, wants to raise £3 million to develop the Welford Road ground. He believes a further £4 million is needed to build up commercial activities.

He has appointed HSBC Merchant Bank and KPMG, the accountants, to advise on fundraising options. The first step is to ask members to agree to convert to a plc, a move requiring a 75 per cent majority. "Conversion to plc status will put us in a position to exploit new sources of finance and further enhance the status of Leicester Tigers," said Mr Wheeler. The club will not rule out a stock market float, but its finances suggest other methods may be better. It has a wage bill of more than £15 million but latest accounts show income of only £1 million.

Although no rugby union clubs are quoted independently, Wasps is owned by Loftus Road, an AIM company. London Scottish and London Irish raised money through private placements, and Saracens, Gloucester and Newcastle have wealthy benefactors. Sheffield Eagles recently became the first rugby league club to float on the AIM.

## Altatron creates 300 jobs with new plant

By A CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH-TECH American firm is to bring 300 jobs to Scotland. Altatron, based in California, is to set up an £8 million plant in Lanarkshire, where the jobs will be created over three years.

The company will occupy part of the Hamilton International Technology Park, which is expected to be operational by October. The news was welcomed by Malcolm Chisholm, the Scottish Office Minister, who said it "adds to Scotland's reputation as a world centre for electronics manufacture and research". The project was won by

Locate in Scotland, the joint Scottish Office and Scottish Enterprise inward investment agency, working in partnership with Lanarkshire Development Agency and Akeler (Scotland), the developers.

Ray Warrington, Altatron corporate development vice-president, said: "We chose Scotland because of its proximity to suppliers and customers and its logistics infrastructure." A further 100 jobs are expected to be created by Stanifer Developments in Aberdeen, with plans for a retail warehouse with fast-food restaurant.

## Low & Bonar pays £11m for Nuway

By CHRIS AYRES

SHARES in Low & Bonar, the Dundee packaging and plastics group, continued their slow recovery yesterday, rising 7p to 248p after the company reported the £11 million acquisition of Nuway Manufacturing from BTR, the engineering conglomerate.

Low & Bonar's shares, which had reached a high of 574p last year, crashed to a low of 205p last month after the company gave up its contract to supply Kellogg's with breakfast food packets because of high capital costs.

The company said the purchase of Telford-based

Nuway, which also has operations in the US and France, would further its position in the floor coverings sector.

Nuway specialises in the design and manufacture of high-performance flooring. Last year, it made operating profits of £1.3 million on sales of about £8 million. Its net assets were worth about £2 million. The cost of integrating Nuway is estimated to be £1 million.

Jim Heilig, L&B chief executive, said the deal "underlines our commitment to repositioning the group with an increased emphasis on our speciality business".

## Pan Andean in talks over Bolivian oil

PAN ANDEAN, the Dublin oil explorer whose shares have endured a white-knuckle ride over the past 12 months, down from 135p to 26p, yesterday announced that it is in talks with four international oil companies over a joint drilling venture in Bolivia. The company, which saw £35 million wiped off its market value last year when a drilling programme in Bolivia failed to find oil, still believes that hydrocarbons exist in its Chapare exploration block.

Yesterday's statement came in the wake of Pan Andean's row with BHP, the Australian resources group, which resulted in their Bolivian joint venture being abandoned this year. The dispute began when BHP refused to start drilling this year. Pan Andean also reported full-year pre-tax losses of £10,000, compared to £143,000 in the previous year.

## Marley expands in US

MARLEY, the building materials group, is buying Flexco, the Alabama flooring business of Robbins Inc, for £24.8 million (\$39.2 million). Marley said that the company, which made an operating profit of \$5.4 million last year on sales of \$35.7 million, would strengthen its business in North America and provide it with a complementary product range. The assets being bought had a book value of \$12.5 million at the end of last year.

## Cortworth up to £5.4m

CORTWORTH, the specialist engineering company that agreed to a £77 million takeover bid by the Kuwaiti-owned BI Group last month, reported an increase in pre-tax profits from £5 million to £5.4 million. Earnings per share went up from 7.1p to 7.9p in the six months to June 30. The shares stood at 192.5p, 3p below BI's offer. The company said: "Due to the terms of the BI Group offer, the results have been produced on the basis that no interim dividend will be paid."

## Diagonal advances

DIAGONAL, the IT services group that floated on the stock exchange in March, yesterday reported an 82 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £780,000 to £1.42 million, for the six months to June. Turnover was up 41 per cent from £12.6 million to £17.8 million, and earnings per share rose from 2.7p to 3.8p. An interim dividend of 0.8p is due October 3. Mark Samuels, Diagonal's executive chairman, said that the company was expanding to meet demand.

## Clyde Blowers' revision

SHARES in Clyde Blowers dropped 30p to 330p yesterday after the engineering group revised its sales forecast for the next year, reducing it by £2 million because of the strength of the pound. Sales in the year to August 1996 reached £45 million. Clyde said the strength of sterling had strongly affected its Richard, Simon and Sturtevant/Vac-U-Max businesses, part of the materials handling division. In the last quarter Clyde said it had dropped £3 million of turnover.

## Rexam switches payout

REXAM, the paper and packaging group, believes it will save around £5 million in recovered advanced corporation tax by paying its first interim dividend of 1.95p as a foreign income dividend. Rexam also said that it will pay the half-yearly fixed dividend on the convertible preference shares as a foreign income dividend. The company said it intends to pay a second interim dividend on November 5 to the holders of ordinary shares.

## Style to cut dash on AIM

STYLE HOLDINGS, the retailer of branded menswear, is joining the Alternative Investment Market and expects dealings to begin on August 26. Shore Capital Stockbrokers is the nominated adviser and broker. It recently completed a £4.4 million private placing for Style, raising almost £3 million. Style plans to expand its 12-store Envy retail chain, begun in 1992, and has identified another 20 sites. Style has 124 shop-in-shops in 118 host outlets, mostly Burton Top Man stores.

## Optometrics improves

OPTOMETRICS, the engineering group, reported a full-year net loss of \$29,936 (£153,000) in the year to March 31, an improvement from the previous \$767,972 loss. Losses per share fell from 7.41c to 2.50c. Frank Denton, chairman, said the company moved into profit in the first quarter this year and current trends in order bookings, along with new products launches, should give a strong second half. He said that the full-year loss was mainly due to the phase-out of Euro Biosystems.

## Dublin move for US airline

UNITED Airlines is to move most of its European reservation activity to Dublin. The company will phase out its London, Frankfurt, Paris, Zurich and Amsterdam reservation units over the next year.

United has offered the 170 employees affected by the change the opportunity to relocate to Dublin. It will be open seven days a week and is expected to employ 200 people by 2000. The reservations centre is being grant-assisted by the Industrial Development Agency.

## Emap in Australian deal

EMAP, the publisher, is to buy Mason Stewart Publishing and Bounty Services, both of Australia, for about £5 million subject to Australian regulatory approval. Both companies have long been licensees of Emap titles such as *Smash Hits*, *Slimming* and *Mother and Baby*. Philip Mason, founder of Mason Stewart, will be chairman of the new company; Arthur Bateman, Bounty's founder, will be an adviser to Bounty.

## Ascot's French sale

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial group, yesterday sold its Clearplas France subsidiary, acquired last August, for £85 million (£8.56 million) to Key Plastics of the US. Net assets amounted to £7.88 million and the pre-tax profit reached £8.5 million. Ascot will receive £7.6 million in cash and £19 million by repayment of group debt. Ascot said that "further divestments are planned".

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# Meltdown is put on ice



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Dangerous tensions have been building up in world financial markets for several weeks. As logic gave way to trend, the odds have grown that it could end in tears.

Speculators buying dollars to chase the rising interest rates they expected the Federal Reserve Board to impose gave way to other speculators as inflation failed to accelerate. The new buyers of dollars were chasing falling bond interest rates, as Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman, became a 'born-again' believer in America's productivity miracle and stopped talking down the rampant share price boom on Wall Street.

Currency speculators selling marks against the prospect of a widely-drawn soft euro gave way to speculators selling the mark against the weak German economy. They were, during the Bundesbank to act with unemployment rising.

In the UK, prices of blue chips were rising sharply when interest rates were rising, when sterling's strength was hitting profits and when City forecasts of company earnings growth were falling month by month. Not surprisingly, the main buyers were continental fund managers chasing sterling as much as UK equities. So a big gulf has grown between the top bank, insurance and drug shares that are inter-

nationally traded and the rest whose shares have stagnated.

The trouble with such currency/asset price spirals is that they are mutually supporting. Once they go too far or are flung into reverse by official action or miscalculation, who knows what will happen? The sudden reversal of currency trends on Thursday and Friday caused flutters in the stoutest investors' hearts. If there was going to be a crash, this could be the trigger.

Aside from Tokyo following Friday's flutter on Wall Street, yesterday was remarkably quiet on the markets. If overshoots on the foreign exchange markets can be unravelled without bouncing into a new and opposite trend, millions of investors will be able to sleep more soundly through sweaty August nights and fund managers will not have to fly back from the Riviera. Like the reformed alcoholic, the markets will have to take it one day at a time.

In the UK, at least, the Bank of England announcement that hit sterling offers hopes for asset prices. If the Bank abjures any further rise in base rates for at

least three months, and if short-term rates are pretty near their near-term peak, as Liffe projections suggest, then the stock market's second-worst fear is dispelled. A gentle relapse of sterling would limit its third worry. That leaves blue chips and gilt-edged vulnerable to a crash but underwrites neglected second-rank stocks.

## Davies sends out a search party

It is good to see that Howard Davies has lost no time in starting the search for his key directors to establish the new City regulator. The obvious names are already in the frame and include Andrew Winckler, the chief executive of the SIB, and Michael Root from the Bank of England. Mr Davies has in-

dicated that those who are already in the world of regulation will be considered first and in the case of the aforementioned names that is as it should be.

In studying the short-list of candidates for the other two posts on his executive committee, however, Mr Davies would be doing himself, and the cause of regulation, a great deal of good by spreading the recruitment net as widely as possible.

For example, the new City watchdog will have to redraw its relationship with a whole raft of key London markets, including the metal, petroleum and other commodity exchanges as well as the Stock Exchange itself. In future there must be no question but that Newco, or whatever more punchy name it might assume, is the undisputed ruler of its turf.

To do that, and to ensure that

London maintains its position as one of the world's top three trading centres, requires an executive committee member who is respected by the markets but knows their weak points. Richard Kilsby is one person who could fill the role more than adequately.

Equally Mr Davies should not be afraid to draw on the existing watchdogs and ask them to move speedily across to Newco.

In that case senior figures such as Richard Farrant, Nick Durlacher, Colette Bowe and even Philip Thorpe, the enfant terrible of regulation, must have a great deal to offer.

What Mr Davies certainly does not need on his trail-blazing executive committee is a bunch of academics with no practical experience of what it really means to be a City watchdog on the front-line.

But if he is to build the team he needs to fill the smart new headquarters he has still to find, he will have to address the vexatious question of City salaries. If the pay is not up to scratch, the right people will not be tempted to join the new team.

## Scope for more summer visions

Martin Ebner appears to have employed threats as well as promises in persuading two leading Swiss institutions that they would like to join forces for their mutual benefit, and his.

In the past, Credit Suisse had indicated that a full scale merger with Winterthur lacked particular attraction. More recently, the two have been talking but Mr Ebner may have feared that they might still have failed to appreciate each other's finer features. So last week he leapt into print with something he romantically entitled 'Summer Visions'.

In this newsletter for shareholders in his investment businesses, Mr Ebner mused on

three possible scenarios for Winterthur, in which he happens to have around a quarter of the shares. Credit Suisse might choose to bid for Winterthur; he might opt to buy the entire business; or Winterthur might find another powerful insurance group to be its partner.

The two companies may have dismissed such thoughts as the ramblings of a megalomaniac money man. Alternatively, the pair may have viewed two out of three of the options as deeply undesirable and decided to make haste to cement the third.

If only other leading investors could be persuaded to put their thoughts on paper in this manner. Shareholders would surely appreciate a regular update on the thoughts of MAM, for instance.

## Over-dressed

FROM Wales comes word that certain textile workers are in danger of breaking bones tripping over piles of garments which look suspiciously like spring and summer stock and are therefore destined never to be welcome in the stores. The labels in the frocks bear the legend Laura Ashley. And the numbers of sad summery garments indicate that next week's trading statement could be extremely gloomy.

# Ladbroke given licence for new London casino

BY DOMINIC WALSH

LADBROKE Group, hotly tipped as a bidder for the troubled casino operator Capital Corporation, has been granted a licence to open a £2 million casino at London's St Giles Hotel, the capital's first new licence for nine years.

The move was suggested that the move diminished the chances of a bid for Capital, which operates Crooklands and the Colony Club, which Ladbroke emerged as a likely suitor after last week's decision by the President of the Board of Trade to block a £190 million bid for Capital from London Clubs International.

But most analysts were adamant a move on Capital was unaffected. One said:

"The new licence is aimed at the lower end of the market, whereas Crooklands and the Colony Club are aimed at high-rollers. I would say it leaves open the possibility of an approach for Capital."

Another said: "This is a coup for Ladbroke, which has effectively gained a new casino licence for nothing. But Capital's two licences are in a different league and my money is still on Capital being taken out by Ladbroke." Shareholders in Capital, still suffering the consequences of lax controls by past management, are planning their hopes on a bid from Ladbroke or a US gaming company.

The awarding of the new

licence to Ladbroke — the company's fifth in the capital — surprised industry watchers, who have become hardened to the strict regulatory regime imposed by the Gaming Board. But in spite of objections from rival operator Stakia, the Gaming Board agreed with the findings of the West Central Gaming Committee that there was insufficient demand in the area.

The Malaysian owners of the St Giles, at the junction of Great Russell Street and Tottenham Court Road, have granted Ladbroke a 25-year lease on the 10,000 sq ft premises. Ladbroke is spending almost £2 million to create a casino with 14 tables, six

jackpot machines and a restaurant and bar. It will open next summer as the Ladbroke Sporting Club and analysts predict it could make a profit of at least £2 million a year.

Elsewhere, Ladbroke continues to seek buyers for eight hotels worth more than £90 million that do not fit with the core Hilton brand. A Far Eastern investor is thought to be ready to pay more than £40 million for the 402-bedroom Plaza on Hyde Park in London, while Jarvis Hotels is reported to be looking at up to three of the provincial properties.

Ladbroke's shares edged 2p higher, to 248½p, while Capital fell 4p to 161½p.

## New routes help to lift Ryanair

HIGHER than expected passenger numbers on its new European routes helped to boost after-tax profits at Ryanair, the Irish airline, to Ir£4.3 million (£3.9 million) for the quarter to June 30, compared with Ir£2.8 million previously (Eileen McCabe writes). Earnings per share grew 44 per cent from Ir£2.2p to 3.2p. Ryanair, which this year floated on the Dublin and Nasdaq stock exchanges, says the average load factors on its new routes exceed 75 per cent. The flotation helped it to pay off almost all of its aircraft debt and boost cash reserves. Ryanair intends to increase the size of its fleet and open up new routes by the end of the year.

# US disk firm appeals over £86m Amstrad damages

BY JASON NINSE AND CHRIS AYREN

FORMER INVESTORS in Amstrad had a setback yesterday when Seagate Technologies, the US disk drive maker, lodged an appeal against the £86 million damages award made in Amstrad's favour in their long-running legal battle.

Under the deal to break up Amstrad, which came into effect ten days ago, former shareholders in the group founded by Alan Sugar received litigation certificates that entitled them to a share of the proceeds of the legal actions against Seagate in the UK, and Western Digital, another disk maker, in the US.

The litigation certificates have been trading at under 10p each — compared with a



Sugar: offer for certificates

value of 50p if the £86 million damages awards is upheld. Mr Sugar has offered to buy certificates if any former shareholders want to sell.

Seagate described the ruling awarding damages for mak-

ing faulty disks for Amstrad personal computers as a "home court decision". Amstrad has also appealed against the way interest and tax have been calculated on the damages, demanding up to £20 million more.

Herbert Smith, Amstrad's lawyers, said that the judge used too low a rate of interest and used the corporation tax regime at the time the claim was lodged rather than when the award was made.

Meanwhile, Martin Bland, former Amstrad finance manager, yesterday joined Betacom, which was part-owned by Amstrad and took on a large portion of its old business. He replaces Julian Seidman, who only joined Betacom nine months ago. Mr Sugar became executive chairman after the Amstrad break-up.

## Sterling mars mood at Premier Farnell

BY PAUL DURMAN

PREMIER Farnell, the electronics distributor whose shares have taken a nosedive this year, said that the strong pound will cut £5 million from its first-half profits.

Its trading report, which otherwise was positive, was the first of a series that Premier Farnell intends to issue to rebuild its reputation after a badly handled profit warning in January. The company's shares have only recently started to recover, having crashed from 750p at the turn of the year, to 450p. They closed 4p higher at 536½p.

The group is making the slowest progress in the North American arm of its catalogue distribution division, which is based around the Newark Electronics business acquired last year through a controversial £1.8 billion merger. In the 26 weeks to August 3, dollar sales were 3.5 per cent ahead of last year, and were gradually improving in the second quarter.

Catalogue distribution sales in Europe and the rest of the world were 6 per cent ahead at constant exchange rates. Investments in its industrial catalogue, and in introducing Newark's catalogues to Europe, are not expected to break even this year, it said. The UK market for electronic components remained slow, with the strength of sterling damaging custom from exporters.



Stephen Day, the chief executive of Kode International which raised pre-tax profit to £731,000 (£206,000) in the six months to June 27. The dividend was maintained.

## Pledge by Dalgety to deter predators

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DALGETY, the Felix and Winalot pet foods company, vowed yesterday to do its utmost to remain independent, but acknowledged that it could be a takeover target. Ken Hanna, finance director, said that the group and Lazard's, its banker, are fully prepared for a hostile bid. "After two profit warnings, we have had to sharpen our defences," he said.

He denied that there had been any discussions with ING Barings, or any other merchant bank or company about taking over the group. Speculation has centred on Barings preparing a break-up bid and lining up various possible buyers for parts of the business, including Nestlé, Associated British Foods and Ralston Purina of the United States.

Analysts believe that the company, whose shares closed 16p higher yesterday at 266½p, after falling from more than 350p this year, is vulnerable to a break-up bid at between 300p and 350p.

Mr Hanna said that the results of a strategic review will be presented to investors, along with the company's preliminary results, on September 15.

"We recognise that we have got to deliver," he said. "We believe that the current management can improve shareholder value."

Tempus, page 26

## Waste disposal firm caught off guard by 'unsolicited' offer

# Leigh to resist £100m Utilities bid

BY OLIVER AUGUST

LEIGH INTERESTS, the waste disposal company, is set to resist an "unsolicited" £100 million bid from General Utilities, the British arm of Compagnie Générale des Eaux. But investors welcomed the prospect of a takeover, sending the shares up from 119p to 146½p.

Leigh said in a statement: "No proposal has yet been put forward by General Utilities and it is not clear to Leigh whether any proposal will be forthcoming." Insiders said that the company had been caught off guard, with many directors on holiday. A spokesman said

that a further announcement will be made by the end of this week. The company, based in Stafford, returned to profit in the last financial year and is currently undergoing a restructuring that is expected to reduce debts through the sale of assets.

General Utilities yesterday confirmed its interest in Leigh. The French-owned utility company said talks were at an early stage and "may or may not lead to an offer or other form of corporate transaction".

Leigh was first approached by General Utilities on Sunday afternoon after speculation in the press. It has been

suggested that General Utilities was forced to make the approach earlier than it had intended. It said: "In the context of the international development of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, General Utilities routinely considers a number of options for the development of the group's core businesses in the UK."

This year, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission blocked a bid by General Utilities for Mid-Kent Water. The French group has retained a minority stake in Mid-Kent along with minority holdings in Bristol Water and South Staffordshire Water. It also controls four other water service companies.



STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Weight of money saves shares from the bears

CITY traders braced themselves yesterday for a blood-bath in the wake of Friday's 127-point plunge by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street. But it never materialised and a near 85-point turnaround pulled share prices back on to an even keel.

There was a savage mark-down first thing that saw the FTSE 100 index tumble 6.9 points. The absence of selling pressure, however, let bargain hunters make their move. By mid-afternoon the early deficit was transformed into a 19.5 rise. By the close the index was 0.6 up at 5,031.9 — a creditable performance given that the list of companies going ex-dividend was equivalent to a 15-point fall.

Dealers say the sheer weight of money building up outside the market and stock shortages continue to underpin equities. But with the inflation numbers due out this morning, investors were not getting too carried away.

Blue chips were mixed, with Commercial Union up 10.1p at 746p after a recommendation from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, while recent high-flyer Zeneca dropped 26.1p to £19.64.

BT was a weak market in early trading, touching 368.1p after going ex the combined ordinary and special dividend totalling 47p. Friday's closing price of 426.1p was later rebased to 391.1p to take account of the special payment. It meant that on some trading screens the fall on the day was 4p at 387.1p, while on others it was of 34p.

Guinness fell 8.1p to 582.1p and Grand Metropolitan shed 5p at 587.1p as HSBC James Capel, the broker, came out against their proposed £24 billion merger.

The banks contained some notable fallers, with Standard Chartered touching £10.38 before rallying to reduce the deficit to £10.51. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, is urging for the shares to be sold once they reach the £10.00 level.

NatWest Group remained friendless, falling 13p to 830p after going ex the 10.6p dividend as more than two million shares changed hands.

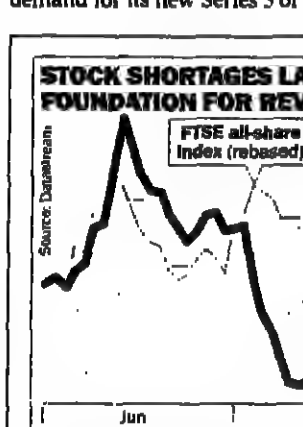
Abbey National also fell 16.1p to 829.1p after going ex 10.2p of dividend. Its acquisition of Cater Allen, the discount house, has been given the green light. Lloyds TSB



Sheffield United up 4.1p, Sunderland down 2.1p

was another bank going ex dividend following a payment of 5.3p. The shares rose 9.1p to 765.1p. HSBC was also a strong performer, posting a gain of 45.1p at £23.31.

Piston began struggling off the ill-effects of last June's profits warning to post a gain of 22.1p at 306.1p. It followed a report in *The Times* revealing that the group was having production difficulties because it could not keep up with demand for its new Series 5 of



handheld computers. Saturday saw the start of the new football season. Yesterday saw the post mortem on the results of the summer, with Manchester United unchanged at 651.1p after making a positive start to retaining its championship title with a comfortable away win against Tottenham Hotspur, steady at 99.1p. Newcastle United celebrated a home win against Sheffield

Fairfield Enterprise, maker of printing machinery, enjoyed a modest premium in first-time trading and ended the day at 117.1p, a premium of 2.1p.

It GILT-EDGED: There was little enthusiasm shown by investors to open fresh positions in the face of a stronger pound and weaker overseas bond markets. Many of them will wait to see the latest inflation numbers due out later today before committing themselves.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt finished a tick off at £114.4 as the total number of contracts completed reached 36,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was unchanged at £109.1p, while Treasury 8 per cent 2020 was £129.1p at £102.1p.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street drifted in cautious trading, still on edge after the sell-off on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 10.69 points at 8,020.53.

Wednesday with a 2.1p rise to 130p. Southampton Leisure was 3p down at 83.1p after its side lost at home to Bolton Wanderers, controlled by Burnley Leisure, 5.1p better at 40.1p.

Meanwhile, Sunderland, relegated last year from the Premier League, slipped 2.1p to 335p after losing away to Sheffield United, up 4p at 53.1p.

Rank Group was 1p firmer at 348.1p as BZW and NatWest bought back a further 500,000 shares at 344p, taking the total bought during the past couple of days to almost 42 million. The group has permission to buy back up to 83 million shares.

Pilkington continued to draw strength from Friday's upgrading by Goldman Sachs from "market outperformer" to "buy". The price firmed 1.1p to 152p.

Glynwed International fell 6p to 252p ahead of half-year figures later today. NatWest Securities is looking for a modest increase in pre-tax profits from £39.5 million to £40.7 million.

News of a bid approach lifted Horace Small Apparel 13.1p to 101.1p. The group has also announced a restructuring programme that will result in an £8 million write-off. If the talks are successful the bid is likely to be around the 110p level, valuing Small at £37.7 million.

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NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street drifted in cautious trading, still on edge after the sell-off on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 10.69 points at 8,020.53.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 8020.53 (-10.69)  
S&P Composite 431.87 (-1.07)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 18824.18 (-780.28)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 10460.47 (-187.07)

Amsterdam:  
ROE Index 973.07 (-23.09)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 2607.2 (-44.2)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 4333.13 (-21.02)

Singapore:  
Straits Times 1893.86 (-50.06)

Brussels:  
General 2963.44 (-12.83)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2963.44 (-12.83)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 1231.30 (-1.60)

London:  
FT 100 5031.9 (-6.9)  
FTSE 250 4071.6 (-21.1)  
FTSE 350 2418.1 (-6.3)  
FTSE 100-Share 2257.52 (-12.04)  
FTSE Non Financials 2251.42 (-1.08)  
FTSE Financials 1252.23 (-0.08)  
FTSE 100-Share 2257.52 (-12.04)  
Barracuda 5497.9  
SEAQ Volume 676.0m  
German Mark 2.949 (-0.017)  
Exchange Index 1021.4 (-0.8)  
Bank of England official base rate 5.25%  
LSEPR 1.1601  
RPI 157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987-100  
RPIX 156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Billiton 237.1 + 3  
Blakes Clothing 71.1 + 1  
Bristol & West PFI 107.1 + 1  
Camell Laird 124.1 + 5  
Delcam 269.1 + 1  
EMI 8 118 + 1  
Fairfield Ent 117.1 + 2  
Fairplace Consulting 65 + 1  
Glen Holdings 194.1 + 1  
Grenlin Group 131.1 + 1  
Heliocan Pubing 102.1 + 1  
Ionica Group 384.1 + 1  
Kingfisher Leisure 175.1 + 1  
Microlog 107.1 + 1  
Newbourne Merit 108.1 + 1  
SBS Group 107.1 + 1  
Severn Trent B 37.1 + 1  
Ted Baker 137.1 + 1  
Thorn 8 30 + 1  
Vigint Technology 67.1 + 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active Imaging n/p 1  
Furten n/p (1) 3  
Golden Land n/p (2) 2  
Logica n/p (505) 208.1 + 6

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSES: Gaskell 257p (+27p)  
MAID 205p (+17p)  
Blagden 180p (+10p)  
Dalgely 268p (+18p)  
David Brown 208p (+12p)  
Diagonal 947p (+94p)  
Caird Group 822p (+82p)  
Gold (Henry) 330p (+10p)  
Hanya 483p (+12p)  
Avon Rubber 600p (+15p)

FALLS: Cycle Blowers 350p (-30p)  
Xenova 244p (-11p)  
Jardine Matheson 483p (-7p)  
Jardine Matheson 483p (-7p)  
Swire Pacific 575p (-10p)  
AI Nippon Air 378p (-8p)  
Fuk Bank Y 629p (-23p)  
JBS Sports 486p (-18p)  
Gold Fields Prop 188p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

## Petfood looks tasty

IT IS not hard to see why Dalgety is in play. Corporate financiers will not have had to expend much brainpower to work out that, despite the frequent profit warnings and low rating, there is value in brands such as Felix and Winalot. But it is a big step from there to taking the plunge and bidding for the whole group.

The problem is that any break-up bidder would have to be prepared to pay well over £1 billion up front. To do this, they would have to be confident that they had committed buyers for all the various, ill-fitting parts of the group. This is where the difficulty will lie.

In the circumstances, few potential buyers are going to make any promises until they have been able to get inside the company they are interested in buying to have a good look around. The most obvious candidate to buy

the petfood business would be Nestlé. It is a poor third in the European petfoods market, and would love to get its hands on the Felix catfood brand in particular.

Equally, Associated British Foods would be an obvious buyer of the ingredients business, although monopoly considerations would make it impossible for it to buy the flour-milling side.

The current Dalgety management is promising some action to accompany the outcome of a strategic review when it posts its preliminary results next month. This will probably be the last chance to convince the market that it is on the right track.

Otherwise, despite the difficulties, someone is likely to take a deep breath and offer upwards of 300p a share. That makes Dalgety a speculative buy at the current level.

## Eurodollar

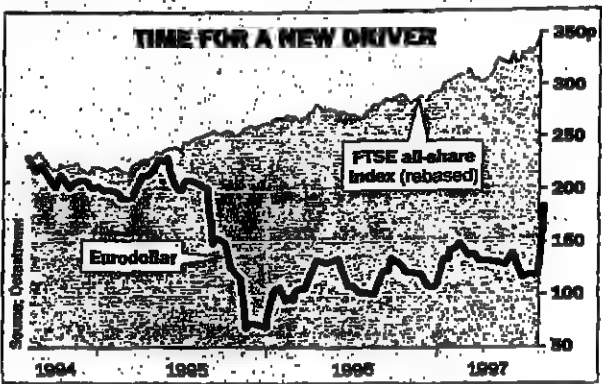
IT SEEMS to be an unwritten rule of the UK stock market that leasing and rental companies must always disappoint their investors. Another is that these businesses will eventually end up in the hands of the Americans, who appear to have more of a liking for the peculiar risks involved.

Eurodollar has performed true to form, though its record is positively impressive when measured alongside Central Transport Rental (see Typograph), the trailer leasing company currently being swept up by GE Capital. Eurodollar's shareholders are being rescued by Republic Industries, a fast-growing American group.

Eurodollar, which arrived on the market only one year after a management buyout from TSB, would insist that

its short-term car rental business is very different from the longer-term nature of leasing. The fact remains that the company was blown off course not by the problems of the car rental market per se, but by the collapse in the prices it could command for its used vehicles.

In one horrific six-month period in 1995 Eurodollar



## Ladbroke

LADBROKE is often thought of more for its bid potential than for the fundamental strength of its underlying business. Yet in the past bid rumour after bid rumour has been shot down in flames.

These days, a punt on the gaming-to-Hilton hotels group looks far less risky. Its announcement that it has won a precious new casino licence in London — the first awarded since 1988 — is just the latest evidence that management is establishing a business with strong growth potential.

Its interim results at the end of this month are expected to impress, with pre-tax profits rising from £72.8 million to £99 million and earnings per share jumping from 4.6p to 6.3p. Its betting shops are reaping the benefit of the popularity of numbers games such as Lucky Choice and 49's, while Hilton International is achieving steady increases in occupancy allied

to higher room rates. It continues to develop a sound casino business (it recently signed a letter of intent to acquire Colorado's largest operator) and a bid for London's Capital Corporation, which recently escaped the clutches of London Clubs, would get a good reception from the market.

With its US partner, Hilton Hotels Corporation, Ladbroke is in the wings to take an initial 5 per stake Ladbroke looks well worth a further.

## Sinclair Montrose

THE launch of a walk-in doctor's surgery at London's Victoria station helped Sinclair Montrose Healthcare to make a promising debut on AIM last summer. Located at 140p, its shares are now at 262p.

With the Victoria Medicentre running close to capacity at £36 per consultation, and a second one just opened at Euston, Sinclair Montrose is raising £6.6 mil-

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

## COMMODITIES

LIFFE				ICE/IN-LOR (London 4.00pm)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CRUDE OIL \$/barrel FOB				SEW WHEAT			
Dec	1025.12	Dec	1104.12	Brent 15 day (b/c)	18.50	-0.25	Sept	94.10	Sept	76.75	
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# Sighs of relief follow the crash that wasn't

A growing band of investors expects the growling bear to emerge and bite those still in equities. Adam Jones reports

Leviathan failed to rise from the sea yesterday as the market ignored speculation that London share prices were about to be blown away by Friday's big fall on Wall Street. The market didn't crash, maybe because many of the investment managers who might turn bearish are actually on holiday. But while the FTSE 100 index hovered at about 5,000, few seem to think it will stay there. The correction seems to be constantly around the corner.

Research from Merrill Lynch gave more ammunition to the bears. In a survey carried out a day before the latest quarter-point rate rise, UK fund managers said they expected base rates to be at 7.4 per cent a year from now. Only a quarter said UK economic activity would be stronger in 12 months time, with investors of gilts outnumbering sellers by 22 per cent. On a three-month view, the survey says fund managers are expecting a fall in almost all the world's equity markets. Few are saying how much of a fall they expect. Temple-

ton Investment Management, the Beazley investor, has tracked bull and bear markets since 1954, using the MSCI World Index, extrapolating backwards for periods not covered by this type of measurement. It says the average bear market decline has been about 20 per cent. The average total appreciation during a bull market is 100 per cent; this is almost exactly the difference between today and the start of the current bull run in October 1990.

The averages have been skewed by the short, sharp rises and falls of the 1980s, boom-bust stories that are likely to be seen by future generations as anomalous in their scale because of the rich fuel provided by the fall of Communism and the awakening of China as a modern trading giant. Templeton's message

is that the bears have been tamer than the popular consciousness remembers, and that they are all smoothed out in the long run, which is often shorter than it seems. Dr Sandy Nairn, who conducted the research, says there is still good value to be found in UK manufacturing stocks, under a cloud because of the strength of the pound.

There are many who still believe in the bear's bite. Changes in Gordon Brown's first Budget, such as the abolition of tax credits on dividends, have left them even more convinced that the correction will be nasty. Given the unwelcome celebrity experienced by Tony Dye, of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, who put 15 per cent of clients' money into cash two-and-a-half years ago and has seen the markets rise without him, they

are understandably much less keen to pop their heads above the parapet. Yesterday, one fund manager at the forefront of the "dash for cash" said: "The markets are incredibly overvalued. We can't say when the psychology is going to change, however." He added that the turnover in the US during recent periods of anxiety had been too big to be branded silly-season behaviour.

Another publicity-shy investment chief at a leading British asset manager was less pessimistic, saying he expects the FTSE to be below 5,000 by the end of the year. Elsewhere, George Hodgson, UK market strategist at SBC Warburg, says he thinks fair value for the FTSE is 4,650, implying a fall of about 10 per cent at current levels,

but he would not be drawn on when. After the easing of yesterday's fears, he said: "Almost all London-based analysts have been surprised at how relaxed the US markets have been about the inflationary pressures." Nikko Europe is advocating a return to value investing — buying shares on their underlying strengths rather than their perceived momentum. It believes any correction would not be large enough to spark a bear market, even if the drop was into double figures in percentage terms. John Betteridge, head of investment strategy at Prudential Corporation, believes the FTSE is likely to be around the current level at the end of the year, with continuing volatility over the next few months.

The Pru has not materially changed its investment policy recently. Although Mr Betteridge says overvaluation is rife, he believes value can be found in UK property and small companies globally, and doesn't discount a gradual slowdown in markets rather than an abrupt correction.

## 'King of the fat cats' prepares to confront power of the City

Christine Buckley on the latest battle of the rumbustious chairman of United Utilities

Sir Desmond Pitcher enjoys a fight. Today, he will be in a truly pugilistic mode as he struggles for his corporate future at United Utilities.

During his controversial career, the 62-year-old professional Mersey-side has leapt into the ring against company chiefs and top politicians without flinching, but this time the man dubbed "king of the fat cats" is taking on the weight of the City establishment and the odds are against him.

Institutional shareholders have become increasingly unhappy that United seems nothing more than a corporate toy in the steady grip of a chairman who will not share power. Their muttered uneasiness has turned into vociferous demands for change after the emergency in which Sir Peter Middleton, the BZW chairman and senior United non-executive, has acted as a conduit for investor anger.

Sir Desmond said last week that there would be no further information for investors until November. "We don't believe it is in his [Mr Staples's] interests, or the company's, to give an explanation that would lead to speculation and comment and debate." Now his hand has been forced.

Hostility is an environment in which he thrives. As the public fury over "fat-cat" salaries for utility chiefs reached a crescendo, Sir Desmond remained unperturbed. He gave short shrift to the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee when they raised concerns about the soaring level of executive pay.

His words and unabashed attitude came to haunt him at a rumbustious annual meeting last year. A parade of fat cats disrupted the Manchester meeting and it was Ian McCartney, now Industry Minister, who dubbed Sir Desmond king of the fat cats.



Sir Desmond Pitcher has long thrived in a hostile business environment but today's confrontation may see him forced to give ground

is now responding to an emergency in which Sir Peter Middleton, the BZW chairman and senior United non-executive, has acted as a conduit for investor anger.

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Plans for the executive directors to reward themselves with a long-term incentive scheme that offered bonuses of up to 87 per cent of already high salaries was deemed beyond the what might be termed proper. Pressure forced them to moderate the scheme.

Nevertheless Sir Desmond, who has a basic salary of £310,000, has earned more than £1.8 million in pay, bonuses and other benefits in under four years at the company, which started as North West Water and then became United after the takeover of Norweb, the electricity business, two years ago.

Anger over pay reached frightening proportions a couple of months ago when Sir Desmond became the victim of a firebomb attack on his mansion in Cheshire. The police reported a caller who claimed responsibility for the attack as saying: "All of the fat cats are terrorist targets."

The three-married Sir Desmond, who has another home in Surrey and a £500,000 yacht moored in the Mediterranean, has remained defiant. After last month's annual

meeting he said he couldn't understand the fuss about executive pay. He had, after all, been used to high levels of pay in his previous corporate life. He had earned more if he had stayed at Littlewoods, the pool, retail and mail order business, where he became known as Mr Mersey-side.

Opinion is divided on the achievements of his decade running that business: he did much to bring it up to date but failed to make its stores into effective competitors on the high street. And his contribution is now tarnished by the messy legal battles over its Far Eastern operations.

Sir Desmond has denied all allegations but with court hearings not expected until 1999, it is a while before he can lay that matter to rest. If the action proves successful Sir Desmond could face a claim for damages from the company he left nearly four years ago but remained on the board as a non-executive member until two years ago.

As James Ross is now finding, running a family-owned firm, particularly one with a tendency to internecine warfare, can be tricky. Sir Desmond survived for so long by playing a shrewd political game. Critics say he is as much a politician as a businessman. Without ever standing for election, the man from a Knotty Ash council estate has become a major figure in public life in Merseyside.

Knighted in 1992 for services to Liverpool, he has involved himself in a number of local enterprises, ranging from the arts to a directorship at Everton Football Club. He is also one of the many non-executive directors of NatWest, another organisation where investors have been voicing qualms over the management.

Several colleagues from the Mersey scene sit alongside him on the board of United. He has chaired the Mersey-side Development Corporation for the past six years and it has occasioned some comment that Eric Clark, a non-executive director at MDC, is also chairman of United's remuneration committee. But Sir Desmond has blithely

ignored any carping and continued to enjoy his role as a public figure. He had hoped for a high-profile job in the public sector and apparently volunteered to be chairman of British Rail before Sir Bob Reid got the job. The chairmanship of a major utility struck him as being in a similar league, and it was the chairmanship of North West that persuaded him to leave Littlewoods in 1993, with the comment that this was a company big enough for him to run.

The company has now grown into the much larger United Utilities but it was only a short time after Sir Desmond's arrival that Bob Thien, then chief executive, was walking out of the door, the first victim of Sir Desmond's difficulties over power-sharing. When Mr Staples was recruited as his successor Sir Desmond welcomed him as someone who could work in a team. Industry and investment sources have no doubt that Mr Staples could have worked in a team.

They certainly doubt Sir Desmond's ability to do so.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Opting for tax credits could offer viable way of controlling inflation

From Mr M. Donald Bishop Sir, This letter outlines a case for controlling inflation directly by tax credits rather than indirectly by the Bank of England's imposed bank rate.

We are told that Government has only two instruments for controlling inflation — taxation and interest rates. For policy reasons the first is not in play. The second, in my opinion, is less than satisfactory. The effect of higher interest rates must be severely lagged, the pound strengthened and, consequently, exports stimulated and imports promoted. Inevitably, investment and employment will fall. Inflation apart, all these consequences run counter to declared Government policy.

#### Time for corporate rethink by Lloyd's

From Mr Oliver Carruthers Sir, You have quite properly reported about the losses of Lloyd's Syndicate 657 and the distress that the loss has caused to the corporate investment trusts New London Capital, HCG and Benfield & Rea, each a publicly quoted company and each reaching for advice as to how the pain might be alleviated.

Long-suffering names at Lloyd's, particularly those who are members of the High Premium Group, have consistently warned of the possible volatile nature of the new corporate investment in Lloyd's. The recently reported 1996 results, the first year when corporate capital was introduced, show that it is not the names

#### Rebate rise crucial to pensioning off Serps

From the Group Corporate Affairs Director, Standard Life Sir, We agree that any serious attempt by the Government to review pension provisions should involve phasing out Serps. The benefits originally intended to be provided through Serps have been drastically reduced in value over the years. They are little understood by the public — what does 20 per cent of lifetime average revalued "middle tier" earnings provide? — but could mislead many into thinking that the Serps benefit will provide the retirement income that they need.

In the short term the Government faces the additional problem that, unless the current level of contracting-out rebate is increased, the best advice to the majority of the six million employees who have left Serps will be to contract back in. (This follows the reduction in likely benefits as a result of the withdrawal of advance corporate tax credit for pension funds.)

## I WANT TO MEASURE YOUR CUCUMBERS

commission n. as in European 1 what we must be at the heart of 2 what we must be at the throat of (see Eurosceptics) 3 fee paid to an agent.

brussels n. 1 vegetable which children are not prepared to swallow 2 capital of the EU (concept Eurosceptics are not prepared to swallow) 3 location of specialist EU and competition law practice.

lobby n. 1 place where MP's throw things esp. tantrums, comments etc. 2 endeavour to influence politicians and civil servants to promote a particular viewpoint.

advocacy n. 1 sickness caused by excessive consumption of Dutch egg-yolk liqueur 2 skill of pleading a case orally in court 3 support for a cause.

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## Yve of new era

YVE NEWBOLD, the former Hanson company secretary turned headhunter, has broken down another staunchly male bastion, appointing the first woman to the board of Dixons, the electrical retailer which enjoys the odd run-in with the Office of Fair Trading.

Newbold, who runs Proned, part of Egon Zehnder, spent months tracking down the ideal candidate, and came up trumps with Karen Cook, a merchant banker at Schroders.

With an MBA from Manchester Business School, she becomes a non-

executive director next month, succeeding Sir Derek Hornby. Cook, 43, is a mother of six, inviting comparisons with that other career-oriented working mother, Nicola Horlick. Newbold, who is keen to see more women in the boardroom, says Cook wowed the Dixons board. "The great thing about her is that she is in no way, shape or form a token appointment. Today's chairmen are looking for balance on the board, but they are not looking for the token woman any more. Karen really punched her weight with the candidates."

● ONGOING luggage chaos at Heathrow. A senior banking executive, arriving from Hong Kong with British Airways at the weekend, had to stand around for an hour with his wife and young daughters while their cases made the epic journey from the hold to the luggage carousel. Bags belonging to first class passengers were trundling off last. Elsewhere, a reader calls from the Edinburgh Festival to say he is still waiting for his nine pieces of luggage to catch up with him — three days after arriving in the UK.

### Firm fun

WILD bunch, lawyers. First Biddle & Co. led by the trendsetting Martin



Winter, takes over half of Thorpe Park for its annual waterski day, complete with marquee and bouncy castles. Now, word reaches me of raucous merry-making at Olswang, based in London's Covent Garden, and singled out as "the small firm for the 21st century" in this year's newly published Legal 500.

Last week, clients of the firm's property group turned up for a Caribbean evening on the roof, complete with palm trees, raffia sunshades, exotic food and drink, and a steel band. Partners were suitably clad in garish island shirts.

Not to be outdone, the firm's litigation group will be attempting to go one stage better on Thursday with a Casablanca evening — complete with Moorish architecture, Rick's Cafe,

and a piano player. Round up the usual suspects.

### For richer . .

THE penny has yet to drop at EuroDollar, the car rental firm which is set to be taken over by Republic Industries of America, in an agreed £95 million cash deal. It emerges that Steve Westoby, group finance director, had the foresight to register a large chunk of his shares in the name of his wife — a fact that has so far been missed by the wives of the other EuroDollar directors. The fortunate Mrs W holds 500,000 shares, worth £950,000 at the offer price of 190p per share. "It's a tax planning thing," says Ian Mosley, chief executive, adding: "My wife hasn't twiggled yet." Dinner tonight should be interesting.

### Solar power

TRUE grit at Charterhouse Communications, publisher of What Investment and other lofty titles, which slaved on against the odds after losing all power to its offices — just as the magazine was going to print.

As hacks stared in frustration at their blank screens, the advertising team, led by Adam Bragg, sales executive, retreated to the roof with their mobile phones. "We took some chardonnay and a wine cooler, and a few bits of paper," says Bragg, who insists the fact that it was a brilliant sunny day was entirely coincidental.

"We actually worked much better on the roof."

● BIG place, the Bank of England. Maybe too big. A thick wall thuds on to my desk courtesy of Alastair Cunningham, who, according to the blurb, works in the Bank's Conjunctural Assessment and Projections Division. Even the Bank's press office had trouble with this one. They had to look it up in the internal directory, and then consult a dictionary for the definition of conjuncture. Try something more pithy next time — like forecasting.

JON ASHWORTH



"Looks like Mercury in the ascendant this month"



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# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## PRIVATE PRACTICE & IN-HOUSE

**COMMERCIAL LITIGATION PARTNER** TO £275,000  
Renowned for the quality and effectiveness of its litigation practice in specialist fields such as employment and media sectors, this firm is enjoying an increasing throughput of heavyweight litigation instructions. Its dynamic rise of growth has created a "gap" for an ambitious commercial litigation partner who combines superb technical expertise with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to lead a team. (Ref.19959)

**ENERGY PARTNER** TO £250,000  
Highly successful medium sized City firm seeks energy expert to draw together the products of expertise the firm has in this area and spearhead further expansion. The portfolio of clients already includes many of the major players in the energy sector. The successful applicant will be at least 7 years qualified with a demonstrable record of attracting new and repeat business. Excellent partnership opportunity. (Ref.18405)

**RETAIL PROPERTY** TO £60,000  
Excellent opportunity to join one of the City's leading commercial property departments, which has an outstanding retail property client base. Ideal candidates will be around 4-5 years qualified with a genuine interest in the property sector and proven technical and commercial skills. If you want a fast track to partnership you will not be disappointed here. (Ref.20097)

**IP/COMMERCIAL** TO £50,000  
One of the fastest expanding top 10 City firms has dedicated considerable resources to the expansion of its intellectual property and commercial practice. Seeking lawyers from newly up to 4 years qualified to handle a range of work including advertising, media, merchandising and publishing contracts and link into its highly regarded IT team. First class career prospects. (Ref.18458)

**TAX** TO £48,000  
One of London's most progressive and successful law firms, this practice has succeeded even in its own ambitious expectations throughout the 90s. Its significant corporate practice has recently acquired a wealth of tax expertise at partner level and the firm is now looking to back this up with the appointment of an assistant. Ideally at the 3-4 year level. You will be a young, dynamic and exceptionally able lawyer with ambitious career plans. (Ref.20046)

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact: Andrew Caulfield or Yvonne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01483 828110 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 St. James Street, London EC2M 3JF. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk Web site: http://www.zmb.co.uk

**CORPORATE FINANCE** TO £100,000+  
Transaction management department of this extremely successful international bank seeks a high flying corporate finance lawyer. You will be part of a team of lawyers and bankers supporting the substantial corporate finance business focusing particularly on corporate pre-IPOs. You will be a lawyer from a top 10 City firm or a US practice with either 3 years' equity or M&A experience. Extremely generous pay. (Ref.20094)

**CONSTRUCTION** TO £75,000  
Medium sized City firm has enjoyed a steady rise up the league tables in recent years and is focusing on construction as its main area for expansion. Already with a number of construction experts in place, the firm is now seeking a senior construction partner capable of handling both contentious and non-contentious work. Experience of projects work would be helpful as the firm is fast creating a name in the PFI sector. (Ref.20097)

**CORPORATE MEDIA** TO £50,000  
Multi-disciplinary Media and Communications Department at City firm seeks talented 3-5 year qualified corporate lawyer to handle transactional work for top media clients. Successful candidates will have first class M&A experience and excellent technical and interpersonal skills. For corporate lawyers yearning to give their careers more focus, this represents a great opportunity. (Ref.11583)

**COMMERCIAL/RETAIL** TO £40,000+BENEFITS  
A new role has been created at this European retail company as an HQ in South London. The work will include general commercial, EC/UK, joint ventures and other areas of business law. Role will take a 2-3 year qualified assistant, probably from one of the larger legal practices in London or the provinces. This is a friendly legal team which offers top quality work in a congenial environment. (Ref.19132)

**INQ MEDIA** TO £30,000  
Our Client is one of the most well known media groups in America. Company with a significant London based business. Core business is film, television, video and general entertainment. Seeking a lawyer qualified in September to work on world-wide distribution and broadcasting for the TV business. Preference will be given to candidates who have had a media or IP suit during articles. (Ref.20072)

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### Core areas of practice

Current thinking, in the words of a leading consultant to the legal profession, is that a law firm "has to be famous for something". It needs a coherent identity, a brand, that immediately springs to mind when clients consider which firm to instruct, when potential recruits consider moving. More and more firms are adopting this principle - "focusing on their core areas". The trend to specialisation, so evident for decades in the growth of specialist departments in the larger firms, is now affecting the nature of the partnership itself, creating firms known for one or two main areas of practice.

In the job-market, this trend can be seen in the move from one firm to another, in the cross-currents of partners and their teams who leave their firm because their specialisation lies outside the firm's "core areas". In their new home, their specialisation will be the firm's specialisation. They will no longer feel outside the inner circle. They'll no longer lack influence and prestige. If there's a conflict of interest, for instance, their clients will not be given short shrift in deference to "core" clients. Or if they're hoping for promotion to partnership, they'll not have to wait for their specialisation to be the firm's specialisation.

Michael Chambers

### INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

**Property Lawyer: Midlands**  
Rare opportunity for commercial property solicitor to join expanding legal dept of well-known manufacturing company. Work will be lease renewals and disposals, and some acquisitions. Willingness and ability to handle more general commercial contract work.

**Construction Litigation: London**  
Well-known construction co seek a solicitor with 3-10 yrs' exp to join small legal team. Work related to building, construction, design and build and JCT contracts.

**Company Commercial/CO Sec: London**  
International engineering company seek solicitor with company secretarial exp to work with co sec and head of legal. A common sense approach to work is essential.

### PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray, Hedley Walsh NORTH: Sukh Bahra, Paul Thomas

**Partnership Positions**  
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

**Commercial Property: City**  
Substantial training and support offered on 1-2 year qualified solicitor by leading medium-sized firm acting for major developers and financial institutions.

**Product Liability: City**  
Major City firm offers high profile, challenging product liability work to 4-5 year qualified assistant. Relevant experience or a science/engineering degree preferred.

**Senior Corporate: City**  
"Big six" accountancy start-up firm, already proving the force of the "one-stop shop" concept, offers 5-8 year qualified solicitor partnership in short term.

**International Fraud: City**  
International firm with 60 partner London presence seeks confident, outgoing 4-6 year exp solicitor to assist to work on a major fraud matter. Travel likely.

**Pharmaceuticals: Surrey**  
Company on cutting edge of pharmaceutical advancement seeks solicitor with c. 2-4 yrs' exp to fill new role as in-house lawyer. General company/commercial exp together with a proven interest in pharmaceutical issues essential.

**Media: London**  
Media company seeks a senior litigation assistant with specialist libel experience and a training and library manager with strong IT skills. Both appointments can promise interesting work.

**Commercial Lawyer: Surrey**  
Solicitor with 2-4 years' exp and good drafting skills and comm awareness to join legal dept of well-known int'l engineering co. Knowledge of French particularly useful.

**Structured Finance: City**  
Opportunity for 3-7 year qualified solicitor named by routine plain vanilla documentation to join practice specialising wholly in prepayment work.

**Construction: City**  
A superb career opportunity for 3-6 year qualified construction lawyer with well developed marketing skills to join a well respected team in a large City firm.

**Project Finance: City**  
Leading international firm, paying US salaries in London, offers 0-3 year qualified solicitor top quality work. Will re-train corporate finance solicitors.

**Shipping/Commercial Lit: South West**  
Backing opportunity for bright, resilient and motivated solicitor c. 10-15 years' experience to join ex-City team. Exposure to interest in shipping preferred.

**Commercial Property: North West**  
Progressive firm seeks NQ solicitor with ambition for mixed property caseload. Strong academic skills and experience will be rewarded with attractive salary.



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## EUROPEAN GENERAL COUNSEL

Newcourt Credit of Canada is one of the world's fastest growing asset-based finance companies. With 34 offices across North America, the U.K. and Australia, it specialises in financing a broad range of equipment and capital assets through secured loans, conditional sales and contracts and leases.

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The compensation package for this pivotal post will be commensurate with seniority. A strong entrepreneurial flair, hard work and success will be rewarded.

Please reply in strict confidence to John Pritchard, 8 Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, London WC2A 3BP or on 0171 430 2502 (evenings on 0181 874 9704). Resumes may also be faxed on 0171 831 6614.

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Our client is an active and progressive practice, with a reputation for expertise in medical and healthcare law, and also highly regarded for its work with some of the country's major charities.

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profile. Work includes all aspects of probate and contested probate for major charitable organisations, fund-raising issues and dealings with the Inland Revenue and the Charity Commission, together with trust administration and some will drafting.

The successful candidate will combine around three years' PQE with a strong, tenacious personality - confident in their own abilities but not reluctant to use the professional resources and team knowledge available.

To discuss this post in complete confidence, please contact Alison Wright at Daniels Bates Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 404 4646. Fax: 0171 831 7969. (Evenings/weekends: 01438 236 328).

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Tarmac Heavy Building Materials UK Limited is one of the UK's leading producers of minerals and related added value products, with substantial minerals and construction products businesses overseas, in Europe and the Middle and Far East. We require a corporate and commercial solicitor of 1-3 years' qualification to work as part of our in-house legal team based in the West Midlands.

You will have involvement in a wide range of corporate and commercial work including business acquisitions, joint ventures, supply and distribution agreements, competition law, supervision of litigation and some corporate and commercial matters with a foreign element. A command of French, Czech or other languages would be useful and an aptitude for languages is important. Some travel may be required.

A commercial attitude is essential, as is the ability to work under pressure, often to tight deadlines. We offer a competitive salary, company car and other benefits expected from a major company.

Please apply with full CV including details of current salary to: Mr J R Stirk - MA Cantab, Company Secretary & Solicitor, Tarmac Heavy Building Materials UK Ltd, Millfields Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton WV4 6JR

**Tarmac**

## Legal Assistant to Director of Legal Affairs

Fox Kids Europe Limited is a subsidiary of Fox Kids Worldwide Inc, owner of Fox Kids Networks (USA), the leading kids network in America, and Saban Entertainment, one of the largest producers of children's television programming in the world. The company is currently in the process of launching a new children's television network and cable channels throughout Europe.

We are currently looking for a Legal Assistant, within our Legal Affairs Department, to assist in a wide variety of company, regulatory and other legal issues relevant to the launch and operation of channels in Europe. Experience in broadcasting is preferable but not essential. The suitable candidate will have strong written and verbal communication skills, will be capable of dealing with pressure and a heavy workload and will be able to take on a variety of tasks.

• A practical and some commercial or commercial experience.  
• A qualified Solicitor/Barrister, newly qualified or with one year's PQE.

The duties would initially involve some PA work for the Legal Director. Interested candidates should forward a detailed curriculum vitae, including information on previous salary to the following address: Alex Carroll, Fox Kids Europe, 1 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 6BY





## AUGUST - NEW

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**To £40,000**  
Excellent opportunity for a property litigation lawyer with six months to two years' experience to work with a strong team for very well known clients. You'll be proactive and academically bright and keen to make your mark at this firm which has a strong reputation in this area. Ref: T12518

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**US SECURITIES** **Moscow To \$200,000**  
This top 10 New York practice with a reputation in capital markets and M&A now seeks a high calibre US securities expert with a minimum of three years' experience to join its close link Moscow practice. Undertaking a range of CIS related work much of it with an investment related flavour. Ref: T42672

**CORPORATE** **US Firm To \$200,000**  
This white shoe US practice with a World-wide reputation in corporate finance matters now seeks its first UK qualified corporate practitioner for its London office. You will be one of the top 10 City practices, be a self starter and have a minimum of 3 years' experience. Ref: T20427

**INSOLVENCY** **To £Partnership**  
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**EC** **To £70,000**  
Major international firm seeks to recruit a lawyer with 4-6 years' experience. You will have gained substantial EU/competition law experience either in London or Brussels. Outstanding partnership prospects. Ref: T28037



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox, Sarah David or Greg Abraham (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-286 1441 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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## CONSTRUCTION

**To £50,000**  
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## TOP 20 CITY

**To £48,000**  
Pensions remains an exciting area to be involved in, as recognized by this fantastic opportunity offered by this top 20 firm. If you have up to three years' experience and are keen to work on a wide range of pensions matters as well as gain great remuneration and rapid promotion, look no further. Ref: T30178

## COMMERCIAL/INSURANCE

**To £50,000**  
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## BANKING

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## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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You will be expected to direct the provision of legal services on a global basis, with responsibility for the management of external legal resources where appropriate. The role will combine legal, strategic and management skills.

Your experience will have been gained either at a bank or in private practice. Equally important will be the ability to demonstrate maturity and a pragmatic commercial approach in what will be a demanding role.

To make an application, in complete confidence, please call Joe Macrae or Lisa Hicks at ZMB Industry on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail: lisa@zmb.co.uk

**ZMB  
INDUSTRY**

## HOLMAN, FENWICK &amp; WILLAN

## Shipping Litigators

## Hong Kong - £Excellent

Holman Fenwick & Willan is one of the City's foremost international maritime law firms with an outstanding reputation for shipping, insurance and commercial litigation.

As part of the firm's continued strategy for growth, they now seek to recruit additional lawyers to augment the shipping team in their thriving Hong Kong office.

In addition to a strong academic record, the ideal candidates will have outgoing personalities together with the ability to work imaginatively and independently within their teams. Excellent communication skills are essential as these roles demand considerable client contact.

Applications should be received by 30th August as the positions are for start dates in November.



To be considered for these positions, contact **Marian Lloyd-Jones** or **Jon Garrett** in confidence.

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## LAW

● GENOCIDE HORROR 35  
● LIBEL RULING 35

## How to judge a human rights Bill

The Government intends to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. There are overwhelming arguments for doing so in order to provide an effective domestic remedy for grievances being addressed in Strasbourg where they may, if they have the stamina, establish their remedy four or five years later.

There is no dispute that the convention should govern the application of the common law, judicial discretion and the powers of the executive. The sensitive question is the extent to which judges should be given power to ensure that primary legislation complies with the convention. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is chairman of a Cabinet committee considering this and other problems, with a view to publishing a White Paper in the autumn.

There are four main options. The strongest would be to enact a provision comparable to Section 2 of the European Communities Act, so that "any enactment passed or to be passed" by Parliament must "be construed and have effect subject to" the convention. On this page last month, Ben Emmerson and John Wadham advanced powerful arguments for the adoption of this model to ensure that rights conferred by the convention have full force and effect in the United Kingdom.

The second option would be to follow the relevant provision of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which empowers the court to grant a remedy against a statutory provision, unless the legislature has overridden fundamental rights, by expressly stating that the relevant provision has force and effect, notwithstanding the charter. The third, and weakest, option is contained in the badly drafted New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Legislation, whether enacted before or after that Act, takes priority when it cannot be construed consistently with the Bill of Rights.

The inadequacies of this model led to the fourth option, designed by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, in his 1996 Human Rights Bill, incorporating the convention, which was approved by the House of Lords. To the extent that prior legislation cannot be construed consistently with the convention, the former would be impliedly repealed. That is the normal approach to inconsistent statutory provisions. The court would strive to interpret consistently with the convention any statutory provision enacted after the Human Rights Act, but if this proved impossible, then no remedy could be granted by the English court.

The critics of Lord Lester's model ask why should we perpetuate an inadequacy of the present system, with parliamentary sovereignty trumping human rights, leaving victims to catch the slow plane to Strasbourg where they may, if they have the stamina, establish their remedy four or five years later?

There are two reasons why Lord Lester's Bill should provide the framework for the new legislation. The first is that it is more likely that a Human Rights Act will be enacted and will become a permanent and successful feature of British law if the Bill avoids conferring supreme power on judges over Parliament. The senior judiciary gave overwhelming support to Lord Lester's Bill, but expressed concern at the prospect of granting remedies to overturn subsequent statutory provisions. There also remains a large body of opinion in the House of Commons which is opposed to conferring such broad powers on judges.

The second reason for preferring Lord Lester's model is that it is unnecessary to adopt a purist approach that changes the constitutional relationship between judges and Parliament. Assume that, after the adoption of a Human Rights Act, Parliament were to enact a statutory provision which is alleged to breach fundamental rights. The judges would decide whether fundamental rights are at stake, and, if so, would strive to interpret the statute in a manner consistent with those rights.

If that could not be achieved, and if a conflict arose, the applicant would obtain no remedy, but would have the judges' opinion that the statutory provision breached fundamental rights. The Government and Parliament would know that unless something were done about the matter very speedily, the applicant would have an unanswerable case in Strasbourg. The Human Rights Act should confer delegated power on ministers to amend subsequent legislative provisions found to be in breach of fundamental rights and to pay compensation to victims.

Of course, ministers might ignore the judicial opinion. But whatever option is adopted, Parliament could respond to an adverse ruling by enacting new legislation that overrules the Human Rights Act in relation to a specific issue.

Our Human Rights Act should adopt a model appropriate for the UK. If it does so, it is most likely to gain public, political and judicial support, and so perform effectively its task of protecting fundamental freedoms.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford.



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The notorious body-snatcher Burke and Hare operated in Edinburgh. Burke was hanged in 1829 for a series of murders, but Hare gave King's evidence.



## Drawn and hung — or decently quartered?

An artist has been charged with stealing body parts. But the laws surrounding disposal of human remains are vague, says Stephen White

The prosecution of Anthony Noel Kelly, a sculptor, later this month for allegedly stealing body parts has occasioned a deal of misinformation about what may be done with dead bodies.

Journalists have written that the Anatomy Act 1832 makes it an offence to use body parts for anything other than medical research; that a person's dead body cannot be used for medical research without their express consent, given in a will; and that bodies bequeathed for artistic purposes have to be registered under the Anatomy Act at a medical school.

When a person dies, someone is obliged to "dispose" of their body. How may this be done and for how much do the wishes of the deceased count? In 1884 a judge ruled that disposal need not be by interment but could be by cremation. Implicit in this was that disposal could be by other, unspecified, methods.

The Public Health Act 1848 empowers the Home Secretary to regulate methods of disposal other than burial, cremation, embalming and preservation, in the interests of public health or safety. Here is statutory recognition that these are not the only lawful means. No regulations have been made. A local authority discharging a statutory duty of disposing of a body must bury or cremate it. Probably all that is required of anyone else is that they deal with it decently and do not obstruct a coroner or cause a public nuisance or hazard to public health. It need not be "got rid of".

What is dealing with it decently? The answer is found with difficulty in vague common law offences. There may be an offence of mutilating a corpse. A minister was convicted of this for cutting off — for sexual gratification — the genitals of corpses awaiting burial in his chapel.

Judges have recently confirmed the existence of an offence of "preventing lawful burial", but it is unclear whether mutilating a corpse and preventing burial are distinct offences or different ways of committing the offence of treating a corpse with indignity and outraging public decency. If there is an offence of

treating a corpse with indignity, by either it or any other of whom it is committed, according to a former Director of Public Prosecutions, by a necrophiliac, even if he is a hospital porter availing himself of a body in a hospital mortuary.

Outraging public decency is an offence. Artistic intent is no defence. This was established when the Court of Appeal upheld the conviction of an artist who exhibited a sculpture of a mannequin's

This claim is suspect. "Suitable arrangements" surely mean suitable for controlling the spread of disease.

People are surprised at how lacking in legal force are their wishes for the treatment of their dead bodies. Private Member's Bills introduced in 1981, 1995 and 1996 would have made them binding. If there is an offence of treating a corpse with indignity, the deceased's wishes may have to be regarded in determining whether the

body given for medical research under the Act must be disposed of so far as possible in accordance with the deceased's wishes. Apart from this, the most one can do legally to ensure that one's body is treated in a particular way is to make all the legacies in one's will conditional upon it.

This apart, a person who has the body is not legally obliged to implement the deceased's wishes. Provided the deceased did not object, the body may be given over for medical use; the deceased need not have expressed a wish for this to happen, whether in a will or otherwise, though if they have not, their spouse or relatives can prevent it. It was otherwise under the original 1832 Act.

As for donating a body for artistic purposes, the mere act of donation is unlikely to be unlawful, whatever the deceased's wishes, but if, in using the corpse, the artist committed an offence, it might become unlawful as an aiding and abetting. Such a donation, however, does not have to be registered under the Anatomy Act even if the artist will be partitioning the body.

The Act prohibits unlicensed "anatomical examinations" and criminalises unlicensed possession of bodies given over for "anatomical examination" (an examination "by dissection ... for the purpose of teaching or studying, or researching into, morphology"). Even if the artist is "examining" the body and doing so by dissection, it is un-



Anthony Noel Kelly with his controversial work

head wearing earrings made from human embryos. The element of public decency in the offence will, if not admitted by a defendant, be determined by a jury.

When Robert Lenkiewicz embalmed the body of a hobo friend for a souvenir, the local council tried to capture it to dispose of it. The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act requires a local authority to do this if "suitable arrangements" have not been made for a body's disposal. As the council reportedly agreed that the corpse posed no risk to health, it was apparently claiming to supervise decency.

treatment is undignified. Lord Avebury was reported to carry a doxor card recording his wish that the remnants of his body, after dissection for transplantation, be fed to the inmates of the Battersea Dogs Home. Without such a wish, it is difficult to envisage that treating a body thus would not be regarded as offering indignities to it, though in a nation of animal lovers such as ours it would be no surprise if any resulting prosecution were for cruelty to the dogs.

The Anatomy Act provides some guarantee that one's obsequial wishes will be implemented. The remnants of a

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Rwanda's criminal justice system was overwhelmed after large-scale arrests - including children suspected of murders or other serious crimes

## Children of genocide

Marie Staunton reports on the unprecedented problem involving juveniles that is facing a war-ravaged African state

More than 2,000 boys and 80 girls are about to stand trial for genocide-related crimes in Rwanda - but is justice possible in a system with more than 110,000 cases?

Graca Machel, who reported on the impact of war on children to the United Nations in 1996, is very clear that international standards of juvenile justice must always be upheld: "The dilemma of dealing with children who are accused of committing acts of genocide illustrates the complexity of balancing culpability, a community's sense of justice and the best interests of the child. The severity of the crime involved, however, provides no justification to suspend or to abridge the fundamental rights and legal safeguards accorded to children under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child."

The juvenile trials starting in Rwanda this month demonstrate the huge practical problems in applying the Machel approach. In July 1994 the justice system was non-existent. Prisons and jails were empty, court offices ransacked. Most judges and court staff had either been killed or sought refuge across the border. Yet soon after, large-scale arrests of people implicated in the genocide began and have continued ever since. Among them were children, many suspected of genocide-related

murders or other serious crimes, either at the instigation of parents or adults or as part of organised gangs.

At first, children were held in the same overcrowded prisons as adults, prey to sexual exploitation and further indoctrination by adults. This not only contravened international legal standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations rules for the protection of children deprived of their liberty, but seriously endangered their wellbeing. So the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) started building six children's prison wings, where most children are now held, an odd move for an organisation usually to be found advocating alternatives to custody.

But not all children have been moved and about 150 under the age of criminal responsibility (which is 14 in Rwanda) at the time of the alleged crimes cannot be released because of the lack of police officers to check dates of birth. The criminal justice system in Rwanda, which had been used to dealing with a few hundred criminal cases a year, lacked the capacity to bring the imprisoned juveniles to trial.

Forty judiciary police inspectors have now been trained and equipped with motorcycles and cars to carry out investigations into juvenile cases.

Anyone aged between 14 and 18 at the time of the alleged offence will be indicted under Rwanda's Genocide Act, which reflects the Genocide Convention. However, there have been few judges to try their cases. Recruiting judges has been difficult, not least because the wages are low - \$100 a month, the equivalent of a maid's salary. In accordance with international standards, the Rwandan Government agreed to set up special children's panels. Jens Matthes, a newly qualified German juvenile lawyer, has spent the last year in Rwanda organising training courses for judges and prosecutors on child rights, international juvenile justice standards and their applicability to Rwandan law. The new judges, who are not lawyers but have all been educated to high-school standard and attended a four-month course, will sit on benches of three in 12 districts. Only the president of each Specialised Genocide Chamber in each district will be a qualified lawyer. Defence lawyers

are being provided by a Belgian voluntary association. However, under Rwandan law, the defence lawyers are unlikely to be given more than eight days' notice of the trial, to defend clients who face 10 to 20 years' imprisonment if convicted, half the adult tariff but still a serious sentence.

Nigel Cantwell, a British expert in the field who has been studying justice for juveniles in post-genocide Rwanda, says that although the Rwandan authorities are starting from zero, they are trying to apply international standards, which are routinely ignored even in wealthier and more developed countries. This month, the prosecution should succeed in at least starting the trials - in the knowledge that their fairness is under scrutiny by UN observers.

Mr Matthes says that the success of the trials is vital for a peaceful future. "Trying to get things done in a country where the infrastructure has been destroyed is often frustrating," he adds. "Training staff and setting up structures take a long time, and the problems of juvenile justice are urgent. But the justice system has an important function in reconciling the two ethnic groups and overcoming the legacy of genocide."

● The author is a solicitor and the deputy executive director of Unicef (UK).

## When privilege is a valid defence

Patrick Milmo, QC, on an Australian libel ruling

The recent decision of the High Court of Australia (July 8, 1997) in *(David) Lange v the Australian Broadcasting Corporation* has quickly claimed attention here.

The case was a libel action brought in New South Wales by the former Prime Minister of New Zealand over defamatory remarks broadcast about him in Australia. The High Court had to consider whether the plea of privilege as a defence was viable. It held that, in principle, there could be such a defence, because the categories of privilege should be extended to protect a communication made to the public on a government or political matter.

Australian decisions are respected in English courts. The country's judges are considered sound, perceptive interpreters of the common law with a particular ability to develop and modernise it in a way that is intellectually and jurisprudentially acceptable. What they declare, of course, is the common law of Australia, but the concept of the homogeneity of the common law makes many statements of principle made by Australian courts influential on decisions here.

A murmur likely to become a clamour among media lawyers is that *Lange v ABC* has shown the path our judges must take on the issue of public-interest privilege. It may be only a matter of time before the High Court pronounces the existence of such privilege, which protects the press from actions brought by politicians or others in public life whom they have attacked. The "repressive restrictions imposed on the media by our outdated libel laws", as the press puts it, will be significantly loosened, or so one might think.

But before editors rush to retrieve stories about politicians they had spiked because of the libel risk, or journalists pick up the trail of some public villainy they had abandoned because of the difficulty of legal proof, some consideration must be given to the qualifications expressed by Australian judges on this extended defence of privilege.

Because publication of the defamatory material would not be confined to a limited number, as it is in most privilege situations, but to tens of thousands or more, and the capacity for damage to the victim was that much greater, it was not sufficient, said Chief Justice Brennan, that the publisher (who might be the writer, editor or broadcaster) should be acquitted.

Many of those in public life attacked by the media will be prepared to join battle

ing without malice, or in good faith; his conduct must be reasonable, and it is up to him to prove it was.

What constitutes reasonableness? First, the publisher must establish that he was unaware that the defamatory article was false, and that he did not act recklessly in publishing it. But there are more stringent tests to satisfy. The publisher must have reasonable grounds for believing that the imputation was true and must have taken proper steps, so far as they were reasonably open, to verify the accuracy of the material. And the Chief Justice of Australia stated that a publisher's conduct will not, as a rule, be reasonable unless he has sought a response from the person defamed, and published that response.

The Australian judges were thus far from adopting the American position - criticism of a public figure is generally immune from legal action unless the person concerned can prove that the publisher knew the allegations to be untrue, a virtually impossible feat. Under this new area of privilege, a newspaper or broadcaster would have to expose for scrutiny all the processes of inquiry that preceded the publication of the report and the complaining politician or public official could be expected to seize upon any oversight, carelessness, misunderstanding or lack of communication in the course of investigative or editorial procedures as disqualifying the publishing defendant under the reasonableness test.

No doubt sources could still be protected, but publishers will have to bear in mind that where a source is not disclosed, any incipient scepticism of a jury is likely to be enhanced, and the prospect of persuading it that the publisher's conduct has been reasonable is correspondingly reduced. It can be envisaged that many of those in public life attacked by the media will be quite prepared to join battle on the issue of whether a newspaper's or broadcaster's conduct was reasonable.

That the Australian judges considered that public-interest privileges must be subject to special conditions is likely to make such a development of the law more compelling to English courts.

If, however, that course is followed, the press should be under no illusions that it would have unrestricted access to the hitherto legally perilous territory of political or public scandal.

● The author is a libel specialist.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific information required.







# Former superpowers share the same concerns



Moorcroft: common aim

AS GREAT Britain's athletics chiefs reflected yesterday on the causes and potential consequences of failing to win a gold medal at a world championships for the first time, their frown was shared by their counterparts from the United States. Not for 21 years had American athletes at a global championships won as few as the seven events in which they triumphed in Athens.

By a timely coincidence, Britain and the United States have each appointed a new chief executive, both former Moorscroft was named to lead British athletics out of its troubles. Craig Masback was given the task of selling the sport to Americans after the country had failed to build on the promotional chances provided by hosting the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games.

During the championships here, Moorcroft and Masback exchanged ideas and will assist each other where possible. They agreed, for example, that

to persuade the lost spectators to return, more dual-nation international fixtures are needed, that the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) grand prix needs to change and that the IAAF has not gone far enough with its "wild card" system.

The statistics of the world championships are these: Britain won five silver medals and one bronze, but, without a gold, finished 26th in the overall medal table. The United States led the table, but, after three Olympics and three world championships in which the country's gold medal count was never fewer than ten, seven represents an alarming decline.

The former Soviet states won only two gold medals between them, a united Germany five. These four former superpowers of the sport are finding it increasingly difficult to produce winners as ever more nations — 200 took part — compete for honours. Forty-one countries

## David Powell ponders the lack of gold won by Britain's best in Athens

appear on the medals table, whereas, until 1993, the number was less than 30.

"We are never going to win more than two or three gold medals at our very best," Moorcroft warned. To achieve even that, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) is dependent on National Lottery funding and, on that subject, Malcolm Arnold, the BAF performance director, is growing weary.

"It was very important for the sport [in Britain] to win at least one gold medal," Arnold said. "For me, the gripe is the same — seven years lack of funding, virtually no money to prepare the team this year and National Lottery sports fund money not yet on board."

Five gold medals would, in the 1980s, have been a national disgrace for the former East Germany. It is

indicative of how medals are more evenly spread now that a combined Germany should win five events here and be applauded.

"The great worry for Britain is that we see people in Europe, like Germany, who have had a good championships, with their system running for three or four years and adequately funded," Arnold said. "It is so frustrating that we have this rich vein of talent among the youngsters — 33 medals won in Europe this year at under-18, under-20 and under-23 level — but it seems we are not yet able to move them on to the highest level."

Arnold blamed "the bureaucratic process" which leaves the BAF still awaiting its first National Lottery payments, for stifling development. The BAF has little money of its own and

the inability to deliver a gold medal may cost millions of pounds in lost sponsorship, television and gate money.

Two critical areas for funding that Arnold mentioned were coaching and medical support. Coaching needs to be more specific and, only by working with a network of physiotherapists, will the BAF be able to ensure that a nearly fully fit team turns up for the championships. Too many athletes arrived here injured.

"Under the new plan, we will get reports back from the physiotherapists so our medical staff will have a better handle on what is happening before we get the athletes out to the championships," Malcolm Brown, the BAF medical officer, said. Brown said that the scatter gun approach to treatment meant that "only when the athletes come to the championships do we have a clearer idea of what the problems are and, by that time, it is often too late".

Moorcroft would do well to

remind detractors that, with 20 silver medals in global championships since Jonathan Edwards won Britain's last gold in 1995, the nation's athletes remain highly competitive. Nor should we be allowed to forget the British men's team victory at the European Cup in June.

Masback said it was "a huge success of the IAAF" to have used its development programme to make athletics a thoroughly global sport. The stronger competition apart, he thought the United States decline was the manifestation of two things: the "frightening" number of people choosing to do other sports and "post-Atlanta let-down".

Twice a day, in Atlanta, 80,000 spectators turned up for athletics, yet, even now, little is seen on television. Masback believes that expanded indoor and outdoor seasons, more college championships and international matches would help to stir television interest.

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	7	3	1	11
Germany	5	1	4	10
Cuba	3	4	1	8
Kenya	3	2	1	6
Ukraine	3	2	1	6
Morocco	2	2	1	5
Czech Republic	2	1	0	3
Norway	1	1	1	3
Russia	1	1	1	3
Spain	1	3	2	6
Portugal	1	1	2	4
Australia	1	1	1	3
Italy	1	1	1	3
Romania	1	1	1	3
South Africa	1	1	1	3
Canada	1	1	0	2
Poland	1	1	0	2
France	1	1	0	2
Japan	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Ethiopia	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Sweden	1	0	0	1
Thailand and Great Britain	1	0	0	1
Belarus	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	0	0	1
Namibia	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
St. Lucia	1	0	0	1
Eswatini	1	0	0	1
Brunei	1	0	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1







# Palace and Barnsley settle in to new home

Steve Coppell, the Palace

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, is hoping to complete the exchange deal between David Unsworth and Danny Williamson today. Unsworth, the Everton centre back, should go to West Ham for £1 million and Williamson, a midfielder player, would move to Merseyside.

**Smith wants to return to Britain after her four years in the United States but a career in Japan or Norway beckons**

However, if Smith had stayed in England, she would be looking for a job, having just completed a diploma in sport science. The move to the United States, however, was always in her plans since she

Two coaches flew from the United States to talk to Smith, but the level-headed teenager took her time in making her decision. "They told me how big their colleges and football leagues were, but one of them

signing, the players are given a pair of boots and club tracksuits. However, all players still have to make their own way to home matches and pay towards the cost of hotels for away trips, having

Smith wants to return to play for Arsenal after her four years abroad, but she will probably, at some stage, be offered a professional contract in Norway or Japan, where female footballers can earn up to £60,000 a year. If such a situation does arise,

England's most promising young woman footballer might never be seen playing on English turf again.

## Lampard is beneficiary as Skelton is dropped

Dr. Lampard's Abbervall Dream, owned by Robert Verburg, is the most conspicuous beneficiary of the new system: Verburg bought the ten-year-old gelding after his wife, Dina, dreamt a horse they owned won a medal for Britain. A long search ensued until Abbervall Dream was found, as a three-year-old, in the yard of Noel Cawley in Co Kildare. The horse was left out of the team for Atlanta last year, but the new trials made it impossible for the selectors to overlook his claims.

**GREAT BRITAIN TEAM** (European championships in Mannheim, Aug 28-31): M Winsaker (Virtual Village Ashley and Two Step), J Winsaker (Virtual Village Wolfheim and Garmusch), G Ellington (Virtual Village), P. O'Dell, R. Smith (Saxons), J. Jones, H. Jones.

**Bradbury  
costs  
Salford  
£50,000**

## Good start

**Golf:** Philip Rowe, 18, runner-up in the English Amateur Championship this month and already selected to make his senior international debut, made a confident start to his bid for the British Boys Open title at Saunton.

Rowe, from Cornwall, eased his way into round two of the championship with a 4 and 2 win over Greg Hyde, from Wath. There was a surprise when Scott Godfrey, an English junior international, from St Ennodoc, went down after six extra holes to Jamie Hall, from Hampshire. Godfrey had been two up with two to play.

Rugby union: England's schoolboys continued their victorious tour of Australia when they beat New South Wales Combined High Schools 64-5 in Sydney. Lee Beat the Durham wing, who is, contracted to Richmond, scored three of their 14 tries, with two for Jonathan Wilkinsons. The Lord Wandsworth's College centre, who kicked two conversions and a penalty goal.

**Cricket:** Northamptonshire are expected to give debuts to Toby Blain, 21, a wicketkeeper, and Jason Brown, an off spinner, for the fixture with Pakistan A at Wantage Road today. David Roberts and Tim Walton, the batsmen, have joined a mounting casualty list.

## A black and white photograph of a man in a Carlsberg polo shirt running. The shirt features the Carlsberg logo prominently on the chest. The man is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning forward as if in motion. The background is dark and indistinct.

## CRICKET

Final group: Costa Rica 0 El Salvador 0 (in San Jose)

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hertha Berlin 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 2

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Boca Juniors 4 Rosario Central 3

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Fluminense 1 Portuguesa 1, Goyas 2 São Paulo 1,

**HOCKEY**

**HARARE:** Women's World Cup qualifying tournament: Semi-finals: South Africa 2 Scotland 1; New Zealand 2 India 1 (aet) Play-offs: Ninth place: Spain 4 Japan 0

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
 1,172 Individual: 1, T Elson (Middlesex)  
 404/12; 2, M Bagot (Hampshire) 404/11; 3,  
 D Brinches (Essex) 403 Free Rifle Cup  
 (British three-position championship); 1, R  
 Law (Alcoa) 1,127; 2, P Hornsber (Ger)  
 1,128; 3, M Janowski (Ger) 1,126 Alaska  
 Plaque (British juniors); S Kalinowski  
 (Swinton) 1,205 County Teams: 1, Hamp-

**Can**

110

**FOOTBALL**

Kick-off at 7.30 unless stated  
denotes all-ticket match

**Jets Cup**

Second qualifying round, first leg

Celtic Inverness v Celtic (8.0) .....

Falcons v Dundee Utd (6.0)

**FA Carling Premiership**

Crystal Palace v Barnsley (7.45)

**Oscas-Coca Cup**

First round, first leg

Blackpool v Man City

Southampton v Torquay (7.45)

Brentford v Shrewsbury (7.45)

Arsenal CFC v Bristol Rovers (7.45)

Cambridge Utd vs West Bromwich (7.45)

Cardiff v Southend

Colchester v Carlisle

Colchester v Luton (7.45)

Greave v Bury (7.45)

Larkingdon v Notts County (7.45)

Salfordians v Birmingham (7.45)

Lincoln v Burnley (7-35)  
 Macclesfield v Huddersfield (7-45)  
 Manchester City v Arsenal (4-35)  
 Northampton v Middlesbrough (7-45)  
 Norwich v Barnet (7-45)  
 Oxford v Grimsby (7-35)  
 Oldham v Plymouth (7-45)  
 Peterborough v Portsmouth (7-45)  
 Port Vale v York (7-45)  
 QPR v Wolverhampton (7-45)  
 Reading v Swale (8-1)  
 Rochdale v Scars (7-45)  
 Rushden v Preston (7-45)  
 Scarborough v Southampton (7-45)  
 Tranmere v Hartlepool (7-45)  
 Walsall v Exeter (7-45)  
 Wigan v Chesterfield (7-45)  
 Wycombe v Scunthorpe (7-45)  
 Wycombe v Scunthorpe (7-45)

Scottish League Cup  
 First round  
 Arbroath v Queen's Park  
 Berwick v Montrose  
 Clyde v Raith

**Dorchester v Exeter**  
Dorchester 0-1 Exeter (7-5)  
**Farnham v East Striding**  
Farnham 0-1 Striding  
**Gresham, Morton v Albion**  
Gresham 0-1 Albion  
**Hartlepool v Parkes**  
Hartlepool 0-1 Parkes  
**Stanhurst v Livingston**

**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:**  
First division: Crystal Palace v Swinton  
(all Plough Lane, 2.0). Worthing v Wembley  
(all Northwood C, 2.0). West Ham  
v Port Vale (all Port Vale, 2.0).  
Southend United FC, 7.45)

**PONTIN'S LEAGUE:** Premier division:  
Everton v Nottingham Forest (7.0). First  
division: Coventry City v Bolton Wanderers  
(7.0).

**WINSTON-LEEDS KENT LEAGUE:** First  
division: Gray v Greenwich. Crookhaven v  
Bookhampton. Faversham v Deal. Slade  
v Gillingham. Swanley v Faversham.  
Grays v Chatham. Whitstable Town v Tunbridge  
Wells.

**HIGH-LAND LEAGUE:** Terenure High-land  
League Cup: Wick Academy v

**NatWest Trophy**  
Semi-final  
10.30, 60 overs

**CHELMSFORD:** Essex v Glamorgan

**Tour match**  
11.00, 50 overs

**NORTHAMPTON:** Northamptonshire v  
Pakistan A

**SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP** (first day of  
tour) **Oakham School:** Leicestershire v  
Yorkshire

**MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP** (first  
day of two) **Bendon:** Oxfordshire v Dorset.  
Bovey Tracey: Devon v Gloucestershire

**OTHER SPORT**

**BOWLS:** EYFA national championships (at  
Leamington)

**SWIMMING:** Premier League. Stoke v Isle  
of Man. 10.00. Amateur League. St Austell  
v Oxford. 7.00

**TENNIS:** Saratoga tournament (3)

**See Me  
ad on p**

Mercury's  
page 24.

**Can we  
improve  
your  
bottom line?**

**See Mercury's  
ad on page 24.**











—

eight months, depending on the quality of your drugs supply.

Too bad that so many people gave away all their 1960s junk to men like Shaun Kent. The Flying Saucer Channel, d, before realizing that in the 1990s their plywood slot-together tables and their chicken bricks would again be in vogue (in a knowing, ironic, Post-Modern kind of way). But Shaun's obsession is the *Kowloon Bridge*, which sank off the Irish coast in 1986 with a cargo of iron ore. Shaun bought it for £1 and thinks it will make him his fortune once he raises it.

Shaun, with his piercing blue eyes and his dentless determination, tells his story well himself. Sadly, Michael Clifford's film ends just as Shaun has finished decking out his salvage ship and is heading off to his wreck. But if there's a follow-up documentary, it will probably be presented by Reeves and Mortimer instead.

Joe  
Joseph



The trouble is that we didn't see Debra's panda until the last few minutes, but wary of leaving a panda-less, the producer kept inserting clips of unknown pandas sitting around like fat slob who have just awoken after a night on the tiles and will be helping police

When we started out, I crossed Debra, weeping with emotion," doubted that pandas had a chance. Now I believe, with friends like Professor Pan, they just might."

Her work on Earth done, you expected Winger to take to her sickbed and die a ten-hanky death, as she did in *Terms of Endearment*. But she and Noah wanted to leave their mark by giving the panda a name. Noah chose Faith. "It's a big name for a tiny cub," said Winger.

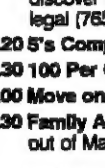
The baby-boom generation had reached an age in life when they were rich enough and groovy enough to move into their own "pad" and furnish it with beanbags and posters of Che Guevara, and flat-pack furniture from Terence Conran's new Habitat store, which could be assembled in anything between two hours and

Shaun, with his piercing blue eyes and his dentless determination, tells his story well himself. Sadly, Michael Clifford's film ends just as Shaun has finished decking out his salvage ship and is heading off to his wreck. But if there's a follow-up documentary, it will probably be presented by Reeves and Mortimer instead.

100-443886-1

**CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**  
Channel 5 is now broadcasting to the entire United Kingdom via a transponder NO 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder 63 are: pictures: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

**6.00am 5 News Early (17760980)**  
**7.30 Havekissko (6486270) 8.00 The Blyton Adventure Series (2819547)**  
**8.30 WideWorld: Whose Heart Is Deeper?**  
Porter explores our perception of love and passion (2818812)  
**9.00 Espresso (6434980) 10.00 Exclusion (9900635) 10.30 Hot Double Exposure (2838876)**  
**11.00 Lessee (2065657) 11.30 Double Exposure (2838538) 12.00 The Bold and Beautiful (2829338) 12.30pm Affairs of the Heart (8214021)**  
**1.00 5 News Update (1) (22575947) Sunset Beach (1) (1776183) 2.00 Company (3190638)**  
**3.30 Mr and Mrs Smith (141) With Lombard, Robert Montgomery and Raymond. A screwball comedy. Alfred Hitchcock, about a couple discover that their marriage is no longer legal (7659638)**  
**5.20 5's Company: Late Edition (60337)**  
**6.00 100 Per Cent (5155947)**  
**6.30 Move on Up (1) (5145580)**  
**8.30 Family Affairs Jack tries to get out of Maria (1) (5136812)**



**Vivienne Westwood (7.00pm)**

**7.00 Exclusive Showbiz gossip in interviews with designers and models. Vivienne Westwood (6856274)**  
**7.30 Small Miracles: The Wandering Monarch A documentary about the migration of the monarch butterfly (512096)**  
**8.00 Plastic Fantastic An insight into cosmetic surgery — a growing trend in and in particular, the rare pin implants (8517805)**  
**8.30 5 News with Kinky Young (1) (5300638)**  
**9.00 Portergate: The Legacy Derek's daughter is targeted by a male sports fan (1) (5005566)**  
**9.50 Portergate: The Legacy Derek himself on trial for his life (1) (2140638)**  
**10.45 Not the Jack Docherty Show (1) (5136812)**

11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3194454)  
12.30am Live and Dangerous Include

1.45, motor sport (45040690)  
**3.45 Live and Dangerous: Futbol Ame**  
 A round-up from Latin America (740  
**4.35 The Streets of San Francisco**  
 (8788042)  
**5.30 100 Per Cent (r)** (6422145)

**CHALLENGE TV**

[illegible]





# ORIENTEERING 38

## Hague maps out plan of attack on world title

# SPORT

TUESDAY AUGUST 12 1997

# GOLF 42

## Home players learn harsh lesson from united cup approach



### England captain told to carry on

## Atherton takes charge of his own destiny

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

DESPITE the doom and dispropor- tion- inevitably spawned by another Ashes defeat, the England management intends to stand firm against the clamour for panic mea- sures. Michael Atherton will be offered the chance to fulfil his own forecast agenda by winning in the West Indies this winter, probably with Adam Hobbie as his deputy and captain-elect.

The onus is therefore on Atherton himself to balance his enthusiasm for one more leadership challenge against the argument that, after a four-year cycle in the job, this is a natural time to stand down. Atherton, never one to rush into such decisions, will seek the counsel of friends and mentors in the coming days.

His spirits will not have been lifted yesterday, when some of the reaction to England's defeat in the fifth Test at Trent Bridge was hysterical and personal. Nobody could enjoy seeing himself called a "dead duck" or accused, in the most preposterous of head- lines, of "impersonating an England cricket captain", especially when Atherton's principal "sin" is to be in charge of a team outplayed by awesome opponents.

There have been times when Atherton's captaincy has been cautious, obtuse and even misguided, though these have become far less frequent as he

has grown into the job. He is, after all, not yet 30, an age when Allan Border still did not know what it was to lead a powerful team.

Atherton has suffered, primarily, for being expected to win games consistently without a world-class bowler, a feat forever beyond the most gifted of captains. Yet, in that most ghastly of British traits, he has been portrayed as infallible one month and im- possible the next.

A decent, intelligent but essentially ordinary man, it would be small wonder if he

NatWest preview ..... 41  
Reeve's new role ..... 41  
Minor approval ..... 41

now felt inclined to turn his back on it all, but experience, allied to his obstinate nature, has helped to develop a thick skin and a tendency for defiance. If he resigns, it will be because he has had enough of an onerous, consuming and invariably thankless position, not due to those who rant that he must.

The lowest ebb for Atherton came not on Sunday, but a fortnight earlier in Leeds, where realistic prospects of winning the Ashes were relinquished. Atherton, often more eloquent in defeat than victory, wore a forlorn look that

day and felt depressed for some days afterwards.

Within that time, he spoke regularly with David Lloyd, the England coach, and received ample reassurance regarding the management view of his situation. After a further conversation with Bob Bennett, chairman of both the England management committee and his county, Lancashire, Atherton was in no doubt that he should continue in charge.

He relished various aspects of the Nottingham Test, in which England played to their potential for all but the last day. Sadly, it will be the massacre that Sunday became that will be remembered.

Atherton is wise enough to expect no respite from scorn and speculation, as he intimated when he spoke on Sunday evening about the "black and white" that dominates popular perceptions of our sporting teams. Equally, he was offering no hints on his long-term intentions. Even David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, confesses that he is awaiting enlightenment.

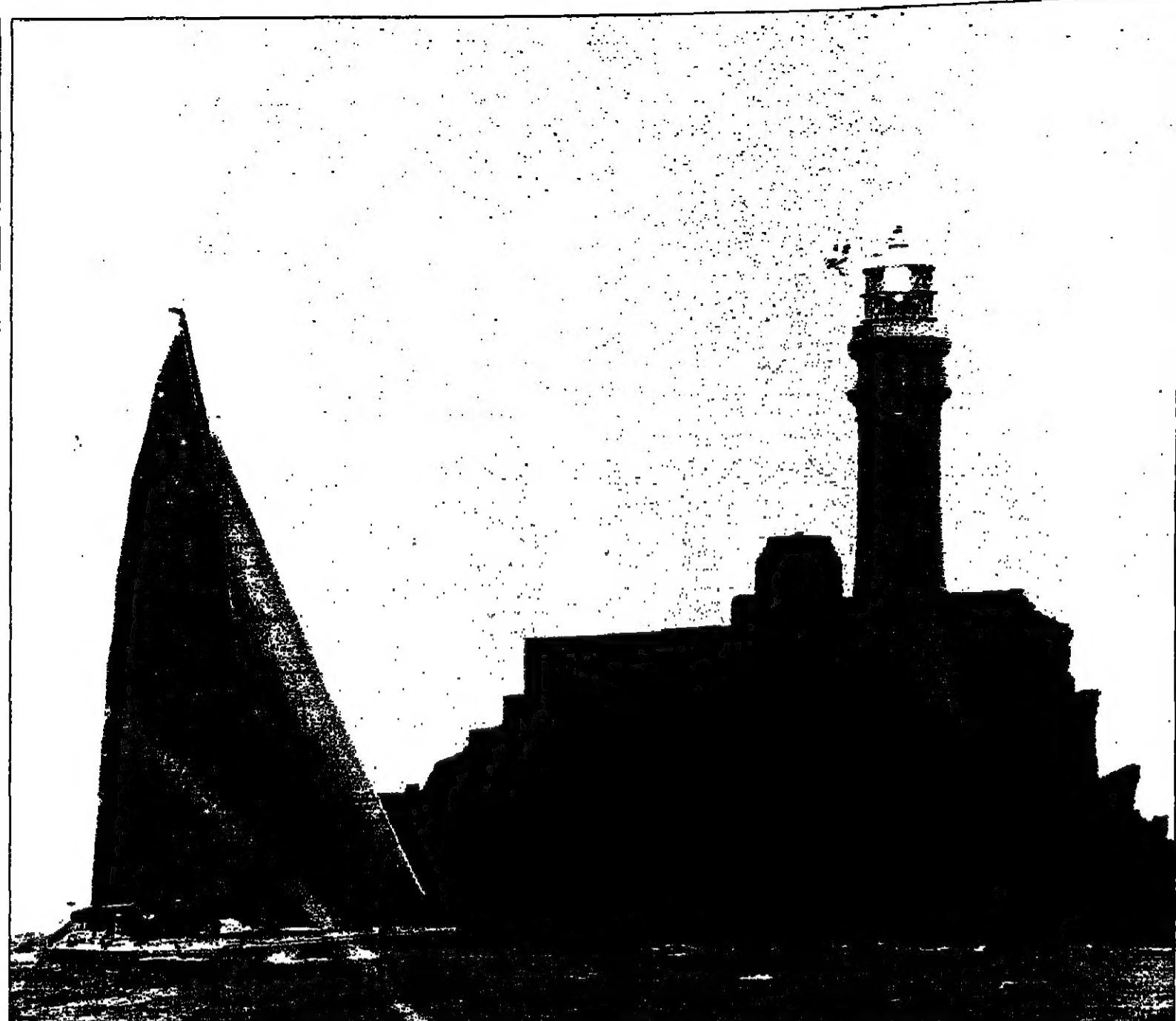
"I have spoken to Michael regularly, of course, and he is well aware of my views," Graveney said yesterday. "I want him to go on doing the job and I think it is in the interests of the team for him to remain as captain this winter."

It is true that he was low after Headingley. I was just as bad myself. I think we both felt it more keenly because of the expectations that had been raised by winning the first Test and the speed with which they were dashed.

Trent Bridge just confirmed what will happen to most teams in the world playing these Australians on a flat pitch. They make things happen so quickly that games can run away from you. The hour on Sunday morning in which Ian Healy took on our bowlers broke everyone's hearts. I think, and our batting after that was unacceptable, too many players indicating they couldn't stand the heat in the kitchen. But, until that point, we had shown a lot of character."

As Graveney is acutely aware, Atherton's resignation would create a dilemma. There are three viable contenders to replace him, but none are demonstrably right for the moment. Alec Stewart would be a negative, short-term measure sure to send out the wrong signals: Nasser Hussain is a shrewd tactician, but a deep and complex personality; and Hobbie has just played his first Test.

As Stewart's role is already



Turning point: Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, skippered by Ross Field of New Zealand, leads the monohull fleet around the Fastnet Rock at the mid-point of the 605-mile Fastnet Race yesterday. Italy led overall, with Britain in fourth place. Report, page 38

## United add Berg to defensive mix

By David Maddock

BY AGREEING to pay a fee of £5 million for Hennessey Berg, Manchester United yesterday illustrated not only the inflated nature of the domestic transfer market, but also the astute nature of Alex Ferguson, their manager.

Even in equalling the British record for a defender that Chelsea paid to Blackburn Rovers for the services of Graeme Le Saux only last week, Ferguson has pulled off something of a coup. Berg, 28, the Norway international defender, who cost Rovers just £400,000 from Lilleström in January 1993, was described recently by Kenny Dalglish, the former Rovers manager, as the most consistent centre half operating in the FA Carling Premiership.

Ferguson highlighted defence as the area most in need of strengthening if his side was ever to mount a concerted effort to win the European Cup. It was the heroic effort of Jürgen Kohler, the Borussia Dortmund central defender, that denied United a berth in last season's final and put into perspective the Manchester club's own failings.

Ferguson was offered Kohler during the summer, but the player's age counted against him. Similarly, attempts to sign Markus Babel, another Germany international, and Celso Silva, of Brazil, were doomed to failure.

Many will raise eyebrows at the size of the fee, but the

United manager was candid in his assessment of the price. "It is a lot of money, but the money is not an issue," he said. "He is a quality international who is proven in the Premiership and he has the versatility and mobility we have been searching for. It is a great signing for us."

Similarly, Martin Edwards, the club chairman, was dismissive of the fee. "It is a price we have to pay. We wanted the player and we went out to get him. We did our business quietly and efficiently," he said.

In Berg, United have a Continental defender already with 159 Premiership appearances under his belt and 44

Trafford and instead had to settle for Newcastle United.

After signing yesterday, Berg admitted his relief at finally joining United. "Blackburn are a big club, but United are a great one, possibly the biggest in Europe, and it is a chance any player must jump at," he said.

"Everyone knows there is a problem with the two clubs. Alan Shearer wanted to come here and Blackburn simply wouldn't let him. When United first made an approach for me over a year ago, I said I wanted to go and I repeated that during the summer, but I never expressed that beyond the chairman and Mr Walker [the owner] and, when Blackburn signed a replacement, I think they appreciated I hadn't gone public and let me have my move."

Ferguson explained that the transfer was a triumph for perseverance. "He originally joined United as a 'kid' ten years ago, but we couldn't get a work permit," he said. "We were worried that we wouldn't get him this time and that's why we went for others, but it turned out all right in the end."

If Berg is happy at being allowed a move, then John Barnes, the former Liverpool captain, is less so. He was granted a free transfer by Liverpool yesterday after ten years' service at the club.

Barnes has been pushed out by the arrival at Anfield of three new midfield players and realised his fate on Satur-

day when Danny Murphy, 19, was preferred as a substitute.

"I do feel some sadness, but I'm not bitter," he said. "I happen to believe that the manager is wrong because I still think I should be in the team, but then all players think they should be playing."

Barnes, 33, has already been approached by Watford, his former club, with an offer to join as a player-coach, but he prefers to stay in the Premiership. He will talk to Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, within the next 48 hours and is ready to move to London. Aston Villa, though, made an inquiry during the summer, and could return, given the lack of a fee.



Berg accomplished

## Cronje reappointed

HANSIE CRONJE will captain South Africa on their five-Test tour of England next summer. Cronje has been re-appointed for the 1997-98 season, the United Cricket Board of South Africa confirmed yesterday.

He will be in charge for a hectic period, taking in 16 Test matches, with home and

away series against Pakistan, a tour of Australia, a home series against Sri Lanka and then the trip to England, their second since being readmitted to international cricket.

Gary Kirsten, the Western Province opening batsman, will be Cronje's vice-captain throughout the season, the board said.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12

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No 1170

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SOLUTION TO NO 1169  
ACROSS: 1 Kindred 5 Gong 9 Wagon 10 Gnocchi 11 Half measures 12 Buddha 13 Stocky 16 Incomparable 19 Trawl- er 20 Ninth 21 Ramp 22 Toddler  
DOWN: 1 Kiwi 2 Niggard 3 Run-of-the-mill 4 Degree 6 Oscar 7 Gainsay 8 House-trained 12 Blister 14 Colonel 15 Garret 17 Chasm 18 Char



Atherton: widely respected

sufficiently confused and Hussain's place is not yet automatic, the progressive candidate is Hobbie, who proved at Trent Bridge not only that he has the tempera- ment and technique to be a Test batsman, but that his bowling may not be quite as negligible as it promised.

Hobbie has been struck by the Australians' respect for his captain. "I had a long chat with Steve Waugh when we all went into the Australian dressing- room after the game," he said. "and he was saying just how much the Australians respect Atherton. Waugh said: 'They say he's like a cockroach you can't kill. You stamp on him but he keeps coming back.'"

If Atherton stands down in the coming days or weeks, the job would be vacant too soon to be ideal for Hobbie. Better by far to allow him to learn as vice-captain on a tour.

## Celtic await their chance

By Our Sports Staff

CELTIC made the worst start possible in the build-up to their UEFA Cup second qualifying round, first-leg tie against FC Tirol Innsbruck tonight when they endured a five-hour delay before their plane was able to take off.

Celtic kick-started their campaign with an 8-0 aggregate thrashing of Inter Cable- Tel, of Cardiff, but Wim Jansen, the head coach, realises that the Austrian team will prove to be a more difficult proposition.

Jansen pointed to the way that Celtic have performed since their defeat against Hil- bernian at Easter Road in their opening league match as evidence of a recent improve- ment. However, he believes a positive result is needed in Austria if Celtic are to be in with a chance in the return at Celtic Park.

"This is the toughest game we have played so far," he said. "I just want to continue the way of playing we showed in the 1-0 friendly win against

AS Roma and Saturday's 7-0 beating of Berwick in the Coca-Cola Cup."

"We are developing a settled team now, with only Regi Blinker missing because he has sadly not met the Euro- pean deadline. I don't know if it is better to be playing the first leg away. There is always an emphasis on playing well, but if we can get a result ahead of the home leg, that could work for us. We must be ready to change tactics as the match dictates."

Jansen's only injury worry concerns Stephane Mahe, the France defender, whose ankle will undergo a late test before the starting line-up is finalised. "Stephane is the only player who has not reported fully fit and will clearly need a late run," Jan- sen said.

Jack Brown, the Celtic gen- eral manager, was at Glasgow airport yesterday morning, but confirmed that he was staying home as duty called elsewhere. "I want to do a few

deals, though it is not out of the question I could be head- ing off somewhere on a plane myself soon."

There are several on-going situations regarding new re- cruits and I'm hopeful of securing at least one player before Friday's European deadline. I am not expecting to announce anything before Wednesday, though, with ev- eryone being away, but I'm confident progress will be made."

Dave Bowman, the Dun- dee United midfielder, knows exactly what is re- quired his team faces Trabzonspor in their UEFA Cup match tonight. Tommy McLean, the United manager, is expecting an intimidating and hostile atmosphere in Turkey and Bowman, 33, said: "We must concentrate on the job in hand. Our aim is to keep things tight during the first 25 minutes. If we can do that, it might be like facing Celtic or Rangers in that their fans could turn against them."

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